KW
데뷔 못 하면
죽는 병 걸림
백덕수 현대 판타지 장편소설

DEBUT OR DIE

– 데못죽 –

- VOLUME 3 -

-AUTHOR-
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[READHIVE]

CHAPTER 98

‘*The streaming has just started.’*

I checked the screen again to see if it looked good and sat down.

Soon people started coming in.

Since there was a slight delay, I deliberately waited for a while and then said hello when the comments started to come in.

“Hello. Um, streaming personally to the Internet like this… I think it’s the first time since that PR live.”

I deliberately spoke slowly, observing the delayed response. The comments were filled with hearts, greetings, and aggro.

‘It’s still hard to read.’

I continued the introduction.

“I was thinking about what to do… I’m nervous. First of all, I prepared something familiar to you.”

I slightly changed the angle of my smartphone and lowered it.

“Today… Tada.”

The camera lit up the view in front of me. Today’s menu, ssambap[1]Korean rice lettuce wraps , appeared.

“Mukbang together… I’ve prepared it as content.”

I lifted the spoon.

“Thank you for the meal.”

Then I put a pre-wrapped ssambap in my mouth. Um, it tasted like stir-fried spicy pork.

‘It’s nice.’

Since this was my first broadcast, I made this myself out of conscience, but this was better because it tasted familiar and was easy to eat.

‘Let’s pay attention to the audio.’

After chewing and swallowing the food in my mouth, I continued my small talk.

“I purposefully came in time for dinner, but if you have any other schedules, later… You can play this while you eat.”

– The camera angle!

– I can’t see your eyes

– Oppa, the camera ㅠㅠ

– He’s already started eating

“Ah.”

When I checked my smartphone again, perhaps due to a lockup problem, the angle had gone down to the point that my eyes were barely visible.

‘Isn’t this fine?’

There didn’t seem to be any problem in showing the eating content, but since they said they didn’t like it, I adjusted the stand and pulled the smartphone back a bit.

“Wait a minute.”

I turned the stand to secure it more firmly and tapped the smartphone.

“I think it’s done, how is it?”

As I waited calmly, the replies started to mix in the comments. My eyes quickly caught the readable ones.

– Uaah

– My idol was holding me and shaking me

– Moondae’s collarbone is straight

– Looks good

– Good

– I like it

“I guess it looks good.”

Looking at the comments responding to me shaking the smartphone, it felt like it was full of small people in here.

‘It’s pretty funny.’

I smiled, sat back down, and began to eat. Then I picked the right comments and answered from time to time.

“What’s your favorite menu? Um… I like everything that objectively tastes good. This tastes fine.”

“…’Did you order it?’, no. I just made it.”

Come to think of it, I hadn’t been cooking much lately.

Due to my schedule, I usually just bought food and ate it. To be honest, it was much more comfortable that way.

– Are you good at cooking?

– I want to eat it tooㅠ

– I came in from the chicken feet mukbang

– How did you do it?

– Gasp, homemade

– Explain the tasteㅠㅠ

Oh, the reaction was unexpectedly strong.

“I see there are people who want to eat it, so after the broadcast, I will post a simple recipe on our account. Um, but there’s no secret method… The difference from what you usually eat… I don’t think there’s any.”

I put another ssambap into my mouth. It tasted like bulgogi[2]Bulgogi, literally “fire meat”, is a gui made of thin, marinated slices of meat, most commonly beef, grilled on a barbecue or on a stove-top griddle. It is also often stir-fried in a pan in home cooking. Sirloin, rib eye, or brisket are frequently used cuts of beef for the dish. Sumber: Wiki.

“And as for the detailed description of the taste… The sweet and spicy seasoning goes well with the meat and the rice, and the ssamjang[3]Korean spicy dipping sauce gives a slightly stimulating taste while the lettuce refreshingly completes it.”

I kept checking the comments with my eyes.

‘There are more foreign languages than I thought.’

– MOONDAE I love you♡

– No eng sub?

– hello (smiley emoticon)

– is it mukbang?

– did you got KIMCHI refrigerator?

It seemed they managed to come to the debut group’s personal broadcast.

Even though <Idol Inc.> did a global launch, judging from the fact that I hadn’t seen media articles that caused a stir overseas, it didn’t seem to have that much effect.

‘Did you know about us as a bonus from our activities overlapped with VTIC?’

Or maybe it was because of the swamp of the WeTube algorithm. At any rate, it was pretty amazing.

“Ah, the kimchi refrigerator. I haven’t received it yet. I’m just waiting comfortably because they’ll give it to me when the time comes.”

After that, I continued to eat by answering appropriate questions, but it was surprisingly difficult to select the 'appropriate question'.

It was because even if I looked into it for a minute, there were quite a few cases where only the foreign languages and aggros were running rampant.

– No fun

– Eat a lot!

– Ah, of all things, it's Gommeo

– Moondae, are you doing this with your phone?

– There's something moving in the back

– Change the filter

Hmm, I caught something that I could answer amidst the aggro that was just being thrown.

"Ah, this is the company phone. Mine is here."

I brought out the old smartphone that I had thrown aside and waved it in moderation in front of the camera.

And at that moment, a message suddenly came in.

Ring-

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim]

"…"

It was some sh*tty timing.

It was a relief that the pop-up didn't show the content.

– Cheongryeo

– Heol, Vtic

– Are you close?

– I hate it

Looking at the comments, it was already found out. I quickly sorted things out.

"Ah, Since <Let's Get Close First>, I get close with sunbae-nim and greet him from time to time."

If I don't reply to him right away, am I going to get slandered from the VTIC's side?

However, if I replied, my attitude might cause controversy during the first W live, so let's ask for their understanding first.

"Now that I've seen it, can I reply to him for a moment?"

– You don't have to ask for permissionㅠㅠ

– Yes, yes

– Show me the content

– What message are you going to send?

– Are you close?

'I'm going crazy.'

I quickly checked the contents of the message. It was just a work-related talk. I replied ‘Yes, I understand’ and quickly turned it off.

‘We need to change the subject.’

I happened to have something prepared.

I immediately found the right comment. It was a question that constantly came in since the broadcast started.

– Where are the other members?

“Hm, there are a lot of people asking about other members. Some are on schedule and some are at home. Wait a minute.”

I got up right away and went outside of the camera’s view.

And I went outside the door and brought in the guy who was already waiting in the living room.

“I brought in a friend who is at the dorm.”

“H-Hello…!”

It was Seon Ahyeon, who was shouting ‘I’ve made a big decision’ with his whole body.

After receiving counseling for a few weeks, he seemed to have gained a little courage and decided to appear, but he said he didn’t dare to appear for a long period of time yet, so I made a setup where he could stay in the middle for a while and then leave.

Fortunately, the response in the comments was good.

– Heol, Ahyeon

– Welcome, deerㅠㅠ

– I love you

– Is Chungwoo oppa not here?

– Call Eugene

Perhaps having this much rejection was fine, Seon Ahyeon's complexion was quite stable.

Seon Ahyeon waved to the smartphone with a slightly flushed face.

"E-Everyone… How have you been?"

However, due to the delayed comment time, what Seon Ahyeon could see was mainly 'Your face is crazy;'.

"Everyone seems to be doing well. What have you been up to lately, Seon Ahyeon?"

"Ah! I-I learned knitting…! D-Do you want me to show you?"

"That's good."

Clang. Seon Ahyeon immediately ran to his room. I asked the camera.

"…Can you give him a big round of applause if he brings out something? He's still learning and he really likes it."

With this, they would post a lot because it would be funny.

"H-Here is it…!"

Seon Ahyeon returned at a lightning speed and immediately held out some colorful items to the smartphone.

It was a loofah sponge. From bread to strawberries, they were sorted by type.

And as requested, people began to push down the comments with clap emoticons as soon as Seon Ahyeon returned to view.

“Ah… T-Thank you!”

Seon Ahyeon bowed his head with a bright face, not knowing that people who hadn’t seen the sponge yet were clapping because of the delay.

‘Is this enough?’

If left longer, the trauma-level hate comments that appeared at unexpected timing could destroy Seon Ahyeon’s mentality, so I thought it would be okay to let him go now.

However, as if gaining confidence, Seon Ahyeon sat down in front of the table and started explaining about the sponge.

“I… I scooped the shape first, so it looks a little weird, b-but I think the strawberries are well done.”

Just as I thought it would be difficult to stop him, someone knocked on the door.

Then the door burst open, and someone walked in.

“Moondae-ssi~ The 10-minute PR mukbang was over, but I got a report that the live is still going on~”

It was Keun Sejin.

“If you give me some ssambap, I’ll pretend it never happened.”

“I want ssambap, too!”

After that, Cha Eugene raised his hand and came in. Anyone could tell they broke in while watching the broadcast.

‘…I’m sure the meat will stay in the frying pan.’

They could just go to the kitchen and eat, the only reason they came here was to intrude into the W live.

And in an instant, the room became noisy.

“Heol! This is really delicious.”

“There’s a lot of meat in the kitchen, go eat them.”

“No, I think this tastes more delicious because it was carefully packed for this broadcast.”

“The best!”

Cha Eugene raised his thumb like a typical eating entertainment guest. And I also started to recommend ssambap to Seon Ahyeon.

Seon Ahyeon wanted to eat it, but he was starting to feel sorry. I had a headache.

“…Eat comfortably.”

“Y-Yes!”

“Hyung, I eat a lot, too?”

“Do whatever you want.”

“Yeah!”

I looked at the ssambap that was finished in an instant and told the camera.

“…Next time… I’ll prepare more portions.”

The comments were full of laughter. I’m glad you have a good laugh.

“Since we ran out of ssambap… I’ll wrap up today’s mukbang.”

Instead, I tried to come up with another content, like a question time or something, but Keun Sejin waved his hand after eating a ssambap.

“Huh? Hey, don’t do that, we’ll just pack up some ssambap for you!!”

“…!”

…So for the next 20 minutes, I moved my smartphone to the kitchen and did a ssam broadcast.

“Cha Eugene, how much lettuces did you use??”

“T-The ssam is as big as his face…”

Soon after, the other three people who had just came back from the hospital for a medical checkup joined.

“What are you all doing?”

“Hyung! Try this!”

Eventually, I turned off W live after feeding ssambap to the people who just joined in and listening to their reviews.

I wondered what the heck just happened, but I couldn’t deny that it was an interesting content considering the number of viewers was good…

'...But I couldn't say what I wanted to say.'

It was a side effect of having the broadcast infiltrated by intruders.

I turned on SNS instead. In the process, after a short look at the Internet, the response was quite good.

– I definitely clicked the mukbang, but when I came to my senses, I was watching the world's best ssambap competition

– When the chicken feet video was broadcasted on W Live today, they ran excitedly

– Ah, on WeTube, he can change the name from chicken feet to ssambap from now on ㅋㅋ

– Moon Puppy ripped apart the ssambap (screenshot)

'Is this successful enough?'

I shrugged my shoulders and wrote down the promised short meat recipe for ssambap in a new post.

And I uploaded it with additional phrases.

[+ The new album preparations have begun.]

By the way, the kimchi refrigerator that was mentioned on this day was immediately received at the dorm two days later.

- 1. Korean rice lettuce wraps
- 2. Bulgogi, literally "fire meat", is a gui made of thin, marinated slices of meat, most commonly beef, grilled on a barbecue or on a stove-top griddle. It is also often stir-fried in

a pan in home cooking. Sirloin, rib eye, or brisket are frequently used cuts of beef for the dish. Sumber: Wiki

- 3. Korean spicy dipping sauce

CHAPTER 99

Actually, I expected that the preparation for the second album would go smoothly.

It was because the company staff, who had tasted hell while preparing for the debut album, tried to start preparing for the next album early.

“We have almost filled the candidates for the songs, and within this pool, we plan to select and organize them according to the album concept. The rest will be taken out or dropped into the next album.”

“Yes.”

The only problem was that the director couldn’t abandon the self-made concept.

“Since we have plenty of time this time, please discuss the title track thoroughly and tell us.”

“Thank you.”

“All right!”

This time, he passionately delayed the production of the title track.

‘…Is it caused by the success of the debut album?’

It was clear that he thought his ideas worked well in the entertainment industry.

But it was fortunate that we had plenty of time this time. The deadline was set for more than two months, and the song was almost already out.

Thanks to that, the members' complexion looked good.

"Let's pick a good song this time, too."

"I'm already looking forward to Raebin's arrangement."

"Thank you."

Even if the concept was still undecided and we had to pick three songs out of twenty songs for the title track, a hopeful atmosphere was created.

…However, after a few days, I came to think that self-production was better.

* * *

"…A collab?"

"Yes, that!"

I thought it was weird from the moment the director suddenly call us, but I didn't know such a bomb would come out.

"What… May I ask what kind of collaboration you're talking about?"

"Now, look."

The director held out a document with a confident look.

The big letters caught my eye first.

[New business proposal]

[Mobile game]

[T1 Place Co., Ltd.]

"…?"

"It's a game developed by a start-up that T1 acquired as an affiliate, and I think it fits just right. The timing is perfect. If they collaborate with our Testar, you can see that there will be synergy. Yeah? It's a game, so it's easy to grasp the concept, isn't it nice?"

Pouring out one line after another, the director added the last sentence with a pleased face.

"This is the internal document, I show it to you because I believe in our Testar. Stop talking, just look here."

That kind of thing didn't f*cking matter anyway.

'Mobile games…?'

Please, I wished someone would tell me it was a dream.

From next to me, Ryu Chungwoo asked back in a voice as calm as possible. It seemed he was less shocked because he wasn't familiar with mobile games.

"…By any chance, what kind of collaboration do you have in mind?…"

"Now, think about it. You're going to make a comeback together with the release of the game. And if you go with the image that promotes each other, the interest will double, right?"

I didn't know where this dogsh*t idea came from. Does his pituitary produce saliva instead of hormones?

'What are you expecting from a mobile game… '

Or did he get favors from that side?

No, unless you were an advertising model, very few people would welcome the release of an idol album that was deeply intertwined like this.

'Because it will eat up the idol image.'

If the game were to be released in two months, it would already be almost finished, then they were going to insert content promoting unfamiliar idols? It was a perfect mess.

'If they push this from that side, it means they're really trying to get money from Testar's fans and resigned to it… '

The future of Testar's brand image was as good as dead.

*'Mass-produced sh*t game meme will stick.'*

No, how could you ask us to add game promotion content to the album in the first place?

A mobile game at that too.

I didn't know if the director was being tricked or pressured. Either way, we were f*cked. It felt like this bastard was just making lame attempts.

"I've set up a meeting with them on Friday afternoon., so prepare yourself."

"…Director, is it already decided?"

“I’ve already told everything to the higher-ups, so I’ve got it all sorted out. Our Testar just has to work hard.”

“…I understand.”

It was a confirmed kill. This meant that even if we said we wouldn’t do it, we would only have an emotional fight with the company and suck it up.

*‘It’s real sh*t… ’*

Should I prepare the next album in advance and get a confirmation? It was driving me crazy.

“…”

On my way out after the meeting with the director. I checked to see if anyone had a good understanding of the situation.

‘Except for the two Lee Sejin, they’re all wiped out.’

I could understand Keun Sejin, but Lee Sejin was unexpected.

‘Do you have a hobby of playing games?’

Anyway, the other four’s moods were, ‘I’m a bit taken aback, but I’ll try my best’.

It seemed they had anticipated similar hardships as the debut album. Let’s just leave it alone for now.

‘They’ll notice it if we go to the meeting on Friday anyway.’

At that moment, Keun Sejin tapped my elbow from next to me.

“…Hey, what do you think?”

“We’re screwed.”

“Haha.”

Keun Sejin laughed slowly, and eventually, an annoyed look passed across his face.

“This time, it’s for real. Right?… It’s not something that can be solved with effort.”

“…You’re right.”

“It’s too much, really…”

Keun Sejin tried to say something, but he just shut his mouth, realizing that his voice had gotten a little louder.

‘It’s a wise choice.’

I checked Lee Sejin’s reaction instead. Lee Sejin was walking with a pale face.

“…”

Is it because of the situation? It was a distressed look that I had never seen before even during <Idol Inc.>.

Sure enough, Cha Eugene, who was right next to him, slapped Lee Sejin on the back.

“Hyung! Are you sick?”

“…! No,… I am fine.”

Easy for him to say.

‘Should I dig it up?’

I pondered for a moment, then I gave up. He wasn’t a kid, he could take care of it.

Right now… Coming up with a solution to this damn situation was more urgent.

‘…With one bonus track, use it as the game’s theme song… ’

It wouldn’t work for the director. Damn it.

I racked my brain all the way back to the dorm, but couldn’t find any solution (of course).

However, at that moment, the game collaboration grew like a snowball due to another unexpected accident.

It wasn’t just Testar who was divided by this.

* * *

The first time it happened, T1 Stars Ent was finally registered on ‘Job Universe’ and was able to write company reviews.

Having left the company after getting burnout during the debut album preparation, several staff members wrote scathing reviews.

==========

[Pros: The singers work hard, the food is delicious.]

[Cons: Unsystematic structure, the stupid mess from the higher-ups who have no entertainment experience, and unreasonable schedules that erase work-life balance.]

[Overall rating: Only those who move to another company will survive. I hope the singers will change company too.]

==========

This was the most recent review. One star.

Since the review of the employees from famous agencies received quite a bit of attention, this screenshot was also passed around in various communities.

– They change people too in here… I think it's rather severe because it's an affiliate of a large company, it's like they keep installing stupid people above me

– Save Testar

– Huft I can only sigh

– The fans didn't do that all-out attack for no reason

└Isn't that the reason why the work-life balance is gone?

└There's no mention of the fans here, so why do you keep thinking about them?

└They're suddenly grabbing the fan's hair;;

└You guys are like this, that's why it wasn't written down ㅎㅎ…

Because Testar's debut activity was successful, everyone was rather talkative.

And this screenshot even entered the anonymous web portal for office workers.

==========

[Entertainment must be really hard]: I am looking into changing jobs because I am interested, but I'm scared. I don't have a relative in that field so it's going to be hardㅠ What are the opinions of people who actually go there? (screenshot) @Entertainment

==========

– To be honest, it's not something I would do with this salary (MS Entertainment)

– It's the same everywhereㅎㅎ (LeTi Entertainment)

– They give me just enough to keep me from starving to death, but the work is worth it. But this also feels stupid (Treasure Entertainment)

Somehow, the lamentations continued. However, just before this article disappeared from the front page, the person in question suddenly appeared.

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋOur company. Never come here, stay… (T1 Stars Entertainment)

└Heol, you made it

└Was it really difficult?

└Yes (T1 Stars Entertainment)

└ㅜㅠㅠㅠAigoo

└ㅋㅋㅋTell me everything

The short and bold answer contained a lot.

People hung around and asked questions, and eventually, the employee was angry and spilled a lot of things.

– First of all, there are a lot of weird people at the top. I've met all kinds of people, but it was the first time I met someone that weird. He almost ruined the debut album. How could he come up with such a weird concept…

– He was going to bring in something weird, but it was already confirmed so I thought I had to do it… To be honest, I feel sorry for the singers

– ㅌㅅㅌ Though it was nice to see, I felt bad seeing them going through so much trouble trying to convince the higher-ups during their debut… I felt so bad for them. Running around here ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Everyone's thinking the same thing, so I don't think anyone will figure out who said this at least… I am so pissed off, I'll just stop here. Never move to our company! (T1 Stars Entertainment)

Soon after, this comment was deleted after it was posted on the Hot article, but this time, the screenshot remained and was passed around.

Naturally, the fans who were waiting for the next album with excitement suddenly felt like being doused in cold water.

– What are they saying?

– Is this real?

└It's legit, it's a site where you need to verify with your company mail.

└Ah… I'm going crazy

Fans who were suddenly in pain rushed to watch the second episode of the reality show.

And they started to get a strange feeling from the second episode and its behind-the-scenes videos that looked like a heartwarming production journal filled with passion.

– On the reality show, did the higher-ups try to bring in something weird and the kids tried to convince them with a presentation?

– It seems the guy who brought it is the director. The man sitting in the middle. They were doing the presentation while looking at him.

– Looking at it, they left the title track Magical Boy to the kids while the company worked on the High-Five. But Raebin was involved in the High-Five's arrangement.

– It seemed they really persuaded the higher-ups for High-Five

└Then, they reworked both songs from this point on? Less than a month left?

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋThe kids did two songs, including the concept, music video, and choreography, within a month? Are they out of their mind? Did they let the kids sleep?

└When I thought it was just Magical Boy, I was mad, but now I was twice as madㅋㅋㅋAhㅋㅋㅋㅋ

The fans who were on fire soon had chills running down their spine due to worries about the future.

– The commenter said he's bringing in a weird concept this time too, but it's already confirmed.

– Ah, no way

– Sigh…

– Please give the kids plenty of time and let them do it.

Frightened fans called and e-mailed the company. The question was, ‘There is a talk on the Internet that the concept of Testar’s 2nd album, which just start being prepared recently, has already been decided. Is it true?’

At first, a consistent answer came back as if they had run an answering machine, but soon, the content and format became more polite in response to the quantity that poured out.

==========

[This is T1 Stars Entertainment.

First of all, we would like to apologize for not being able to answer your inquiry because it is a confidential matter within the company.

However, we are preparing a lot of things for Testar’s new album, and we respect the artist’s opinion…]

==========

Of course, it wasn’t reassuring. If the album concept was undecided or Testar took charge of it, that part would have already been confirmed.

– I guess the content of the screenshot is correct

– Ah what should I do

– Give the company to Testa, that’d be better

Fans eventually started taking a bit more extreme action.

– Kwak Shinkyun is the director that came out on the reality show, right? I think you’ll get feedback if you go directly to that person.

And this choice produced tremendous results.

CHAPTER 100

When I woke up, my boss had disappeared.

'Is it a dream?'

It wasn't a dream.

The director, who had been fighting with fans for the past few days, had disappeared.

Of course, he didn't quit. He just went back to where he used to work.

As it turned out, it seemed that the director was slowly filling up his portfolio and looking for opportunities.

According to what I heard from the staff gossiping, he was originally planning to leave in a year.

In the meantime, there was a dispute with the fans, so he talked to the higher-ups using that as an excuse and quickly flew away.

And of course, the 'collaboration between Testar and the game' that was included in the director's portfolio…

It continued. He had already signed the contract.

*'F*ck.'*

However, I couldn't whine to the fans who were happy about sending the director away.

I accepted the reality and started getting ready to go out.

Today was Friday, the day when the meeting was scheduled.

* * *

“Hello, I’m a huge fan!”

“Hello!”

“Hello!”

The man and woman who I met at the meeting were surprisingly gentle.

It was to the point that I felt sorry for having anticipated the impression of scammers.

Besides, their side seemed a bit dazed, it seemed the talk of collaboration was a little out of the blue.

“That… Should I explain our game first?”

“Y-Yes!”

“We will listen.”

“Yes, then…”

What followed… It sounded quite unique and fun.

It was also unexpected.

‘Hoo.’

“…So, the main story of the game is the story of the main character exploring Seoul, which was destroyed by a mysterious material from a meteorite. It’s a roguelike adventure where you meet various forces in Seoul, and your comrades and abilities change depending on your choices.”

“It sounds really fun!”

“Ah, thank you!”

Kim Raebin was the first to applaud.

This… It was a sign that this would be fine.

Surprisingly, does this mean that what the director threw away might not be trash, but high-quality beef?

Besides, these people were quite friendly. It wasn’t just their words that were kind, but that meant we could use their goodwill.

“Actually, this collab… We also received it out of blue, so we didn’t have enough time to investigate, but when we checked the basics… The ‘Magical Boy’ that you made was really cool.”

“Ah, thank you. We also want to check the game soon. It sounds like a lot of fun.”

“Oh, then, hold on a second… Would you like to play?”

“Yes?”

“I’m fixing the bug, but it’s already possible to play! It should be fine.”

A smartphone device came out of the arms of the person sitting on the left. It was a large Android model.

The person ran the game screen by flicking the smartphone screen then he handed it to Ryu Chungwoo.

“Ah…”

“Me! I’ll do it!”

Ryu Chungwoo, who accepted it a little awkwardly, stiffened at Cha Eugene’s desperate request.

However, perhaps he thought it would be better to give it to someone who was good at it and would have fun, Ryu Chungwoo handed over the smartphone with a request.

“Play carefully.”

“Yeah!!”

Cha Eugene quickly took it and started the game with his eyes shining. The rest of the members started looking at the screen with curious expressions.

‘…I think they’re excited, too.’

Conscious of the two people watching Testar with youthhful eyes filled with excitement and tension, I also looked into the screen.

Perhaps because of the high degree of freedom and the mobile system, it was difficult to implement everything in detail, so the game progressed in alternating text, graphics, and illustrations.

However, it was very sophisticated and distinctive.

Besides, it was fun. The format of gathering comrades and clearing the story chapters was quite good.

‘This… This is going to work.’

It was a level of quality that made me understand why T1 took over.

‘…But where do you put idol’s promotions here?’

The mere thought of it made me speechless.

Anyway, Cha Eugene, who finished Chapter 1 in an instant, shouted excitedly.

“It’s so much fun!”

“Oh~”

“Thank you.”

The two struggled to get the smartphone back from Cha Eugene, who was regretful.

And the man said with a smile.

“How was it? Is there a part that you thought would be good for the collaboration?”

“…Mmm.”

“I think we’ll have to think about that from now on.”

“…Right? We’ll think about it, too.”

It was a situation that everyone expected, so there was nothing to be solemn about.

But anyway, the fact that the game wasn’t a failure was already a big harvest.

“Thank you~”

“See you next time.”

The first meeting ended with an ambiguous conversation saying ‘Let’s think about it each on our own’. However, the atmosphere was fine, perhaps because the outlook wasn’t bad in its own way.

“I think it would be nice to change the BGM of the game and use it as the title track.”

“…Wouldn’t that be a commercial, which means it wouldn’t be able to come out on the music show?”

“Ugh.

Kim Raebin, who was drawing a picture as if he had been inspired, was troubled by Lee Sejin’s point.

And I was a little relieved.

‘For now, the brand image won’t be destroyed.’

Our grade might fall after being criticized for being unreasonable, but I didn’t think it would become a joke enough to interfere with the next album.

‘Now the question is, what kind of collaboration are we doing?’

We held a discussion regarding this topic as soon as we entered the dorm.

First, Ryu Chungwoo delivered the suggestions he had heard from the company staff.

“The exchange between recorded songs and the game’s BGM would be the best… is the current opinion.”

“Hmm, that’s safe.”

They said that since there is no one in charge to intervene, let’s just do a collaboration like this and finish it in moderation.

‘I can feel the sadness of office workers.’

However, Keun Sejin unexpectedly shook his head with a smile.

“Ei~ Then, we’re the only ones working too hard, aren’t we?”

“Huh…?”

“They’re both music-related! I think we and the AR team will be the only ones who will suffer… Hm, I think we should have something to bring along with us, too~”

Right.

‘It’s not that there’s no loss, it’s that we’ve reached the point where we need to make profits.’

Certainly, if we proceeded this way, the work would increase and only the game company would eat up the profits.

This was because the games would receive publicity, but Testar wouldn’t gain recognition by collaborating with a game that hadn’t even been released yet.

‘…It’s rare for gamers to become fans of idols because of the BGM.’

“Then what is your opinion?”

“Let’s think about it from now on~ If we have to work anyway, I would like to get rewarded for it.”

“Mmm.”

And just as people were about to sink into their worries, Lee Sejin opened his mouth with a murmur.

“…Just leave it to the people at the company. Isn’t it strange that they’re asking us to decide what to collaborate with when we’re busy preparing for the album?”

“Hyung, then the workload…”

“That’s for the AR team to figure out. We just have to say we’re going to record.”

Lee Sejin cut it down.

“In the first place… This situation is weird. Why do rookies make and decide things like this? It’s not like the company doesn’t have money.”

“…”

It was so true that I just wanted to accept it.

Lee Sejin, who rarely talked a lot, was breathing hard. It must have been something that he had been thinking about for a while.

And Cha Eugene answered brightly.

“But I want to do something else! The BGM is not fun.”

“…”

Lee Sejin had enough and closed his eyes.

‘Geez.’

Still, seeing that he didn’t run away, he had gotten a lot better.

“Now~ then let’s do a majority vote? Those who want to come up with a new collaboration theme, hand!”

Surprisingly, everyone raised their hands except Lee Sejin and me.

‘You punks.’

It probably wasn’t because they were trying to make a profit like Keun Sejin, but for reasons like ‘I want to take on the challenge’, or ‘I want to do a great job’.

Meanwhile, Keun Sejin pretended to be surprised.

“Heol, Moondae, you don’t want to?”

“No, I hold it off. If you come up with a good opinion, proceed that way, or let’s just make BGM.”

“Yes, let’s proceed like that for now.”

Ryu Chungwoo changed the subject again.

“Now, then, what are the advantages that our group can gain from collaborating with the game?”

“…C-Can we appear in the game?”

“That?… is out of the question. The contract is already over.”

“Yes, neither of them seems applicable this time. The release is just around the corner, so there’s no way they can put us in.”

Um, that was correct.

Even if they had enough time, they wouldn't want to add characters based on celebrities out of the blue as soon as the game they worked hard to create with their worldview was released.

'…Wait.'

…This, can't we think of this in reverse?

"How about this?"

"Hn?"

"Don't ask them to add our characters, let's pick and use their characters."

"…??"

I pointed my finger at the smartphone.

"Why don't we pick game characters that resemble us the most and pick a B-side[1] B-side is the song on the album that isn't the title track. In Korea, it's called sub-song. I thought long and hard about it and decide to go with the English equivalent. with them?"

"…!"

"Since it's not the title track, it doesn't matter if it can't get on the music shows, and even if we just target tv cables and WeTube, they are big deals these days."

Well-made game IP, it meant we just had to absorb it into our worldview.

* * *

“That… You’re asking for the list of characters?”

“Yes.”

“Uh…”

The people of the game company that we met again looked taken aback by the sudden proposal.

They exchanged glances and answered in a slightly reluctant voice.

“Um… We do have a character draw system to generate profits.”

“Yes.”

“That, the elements are all random…”

“…!!”

It meant the selected character was randomly created.

“But I saw an illustration.”

“That was chosen through cartoon rendering… Well, anyway, you can see that it was created randomly!”

“…”

I didn’t expect to get stuck here.

Then, Kim Raebin raised his hand.

“…So, the comrades that Cha Eugene used are not fixed and their names change every time?”

“Ah, those comrades… Well, at the beginning of the next chapter, they all die.”

“…!!”

“We have to make the main character explore Seoul alone… Haha.”

The people sitting in front of me laughed, saying that those comrades were the only fixed characters.

“I don’t want them to die…”

Cha Eugene suddenly became depressed. It seemed he had grown attached.

And I realized.

‘…? Then why don’t we just use them?’

When I turned my head, everyone except Cha Eugene had that thought on their faces.

‘…Coincidentally, there are seven of them.’

Because the party in this game consisted of 4 people, the number of people at the tutorial was set to 8, including the main character.

Ryu Chungwoo spoke carefully.

“…Can we use them?”

“Uh, yes?”

“Ah, so… The members are going to play those comrades’ roles, make a song and create a stage.”

"…"

'Maybe they don't like it.'

If they also received a call for collaboration all of a sudden, they could say that they didn't want us to be involved this much.

'Then calmly talk about the BGM… '

"Heol!"

"…?"

"I love it!"

"…!!"

"If we have time and budget, we want to do a project like that!"

Following the excited woman, the man shouted with both his fists clenched.

"Our kids are coming out in 3D…!"

"…"

Unexpectedly, the collaboration seemed to go smoothly.

- 1. B-side is the song on the album that isn't the title track. In Korea, it's called sub-song. I thought long and hard about it and decide to go with the English equivalent.

CHAPTER 101

It was Sunday, September 23.

Testar's fans, Loviewers, were saddened by the dried-up content.

Of course, Testar regularly left news on SNS and they steadily delivered news related to advertisements and events every few days.

However, fans couldn't forget the taste of the debut activity that poured like a waterfall.

– No other news from the kids…?

– The director was kicked out too, I hope they can do a celebration party on W app for about a week

– We have a conscience, too. We don't already want a comeback. Guys, but how can we not get WeTube's own variety show…? ㅎ

– It feels like only eating barley rice and soy sauce after having a banquet feast every dayㅠㅠ

Fans who were so conflicted between conscience and desire were expecting to fall asleep in agony on the coming Monday.

That is, until the video came up.

– Uh, something just came up on the official account. It's WeTube??? (link)

[Testar(TeSTAR) "Bonus book" Comeback Trailer (with 127 Section)]

-???

– Comeback trailer?

– All of a sudden?

– I almost had a cardiac arrest.

People screamed and freaked out, but they clicked on the video right away.

The thumbnail was a left eye looking through a scope. It was unknown whether it was a lens or a CG, but it was shining with a rather eerie purple light.

And soon the video started playing.

[…]

What appeared was a long black leg. The outstretched feet, clad in sleek leather pants, strode to somewhere.

The camera followed each footstep, moving at a high speed into a destroyed hallway marked with plasterboards and cloth.

And the camera went all the way up from the bridge, and in an instant, it showed a left hand wearing a black finger suit. In the process, a face profile was zoomed in together.

It was Cha Eugene with his red hair down.

And in Cha Eugene's hands… There was a worn-out red stuffed toy.

[♫♪♩♪-]

Whistling a familiar melody, Cha Eugene turned over the stuffed doll.

There was a cogwheel behind the doll's back. His right hand grabbed the cog without hesitation and started turning it.

Click click.

The sound of the gears turning was loud, and soon a strange sound began to mix.

Pi Pi Pi Pipipipipi

PPi-.

Clang.

With a popping sound, the screen turned black. A narration echoed.

[WHAT makes people live?]

[…A CHOICE]

When the screen lip up again, the background changed.

It was a half-destroyed playground. The sand had hardened, and the goalpost had already been torn down. The moment a strange pattern was caught in the middle of it in an aerial shot.

A very heavy beat started ringing.

DOOOM DOOOM DOOOM DOOOM

Then a brilliant string orchestra began to play out. It was an accompaniment of an urgent construction.

On top of that, an intense synth of electric sound began to play a riff melody like thunder.

– *I”m gonna survive.*

Like you did before

I”m gonna grab it.

Just like I dreamed

It was a high-pitched intro.

At that moment, the bottom of the goalpost on the screen exploded. And Cha Eugene came out from under it.

– *Ashes to ashes, dust to dust*

But NOT for me I’m not.

I’m alive, right, like

Legends never die

Shaking off the dust and sand from his hair, Cha Eugene excitedly kicked the goalpost and ran across the playground toward the front gate.

The moment he opened the front gate covered with dark red ivy and strode through it, the scene changed.

– *All crossroads are the crossroads of choice*

But wherever you go, find it

the most certain equation.

You will never die

Lee Sejin, the former actor, peered into a monitor in a blue laboratory full of samples.

Unlike his delicate impression with glasses on, there were green and dark red marks attached to the coat he was wearing.

Watching Cha Eugene run out of the front gate on the monitor, Lee Sejin got up from his seat.

And as he walked in front of the barbed wire fence that blocked the lab door, he stopped and read a warning sign.

It was a biohazard sign.

At that moment, the scene was changed to a hand that tore off a similar sign in another place.

– That"s what keeps me alive

I'm going after you violently

Steps to complete life

If I reach out, I can hold it

Holding the torn paper in one hand was Keun Sejin in a neat modern attire. He stood on an old podium as if giving a speech.

And the moment he threw the paper he was holding onto an old iron fence.

Thud.

The crumpled paper bounced off the iron fence helplessly, but the people standing under the podium rushed to the iron fence.

Keun Sejin shrugged, picked a baseball cap that was hanging on one side, and put it on his head. And he leisurely disappeared from the podium.

At that moment, the camera soared into the sky.

– I'm gonna survive.

Like you did before

I"m gonna grab it.

Just like I dreamed!

A sniper armed with modern weaponry from head to toe was aiming at something strange over a scope from a rooftop.

A blue light was fired from the sniper's gun.

The moment the light hit a pounding red lump, the lump burst and exploded.

The camera panned around and it showed the sniper throwing his gun and getting up. It was Ryu Chungwoo.

As soon as Ryu Chungwoo's gun fell down the rooftop, it melted red and soaked into the asphalt, disappearing without a trace.

And the camera fell down below the asphalt.

– I will never die

Like I did before

I”m gonna keep you

Alive- Alive- Alive!

Mannequins and all sorts of weapons were piled up half-destroyed in a huge sewer filled with still water.

Kim Raebin lay down quietly at the top. A ray of sunlight fell on him, but at the same time, water dripped down and wet his black hair and face.

At that moment, Kim Raebin raised his eyelids.

And he rolled his eyes sideways.

The camera moved to follow that somewhat eerie gaze.

Tap.

The cut continued with the busy footsteps of people moving through the sewer.

Instead of being dropped, the song became more melodic. A soft voice followed.

– Choose your way

Choose your side

Make your way

Decide your fate

The camera focused on an object similar to a giant water tank being carried by people.

The water tank shook, then the top opened and white arms popped out.

It was Seon Ahyeon, pulling his body out of it.

A strangely glowing stream of water spilled out of the tank through the shaking camera.

The feast of water droplets shining behind Seon Ahyeon stopped like a halo.

At that moment, the camera came out of the sewer along with flying drops of water.

And illuminated a broken window of a skyscraper.

– *Choose your way*

Choose your side

Make your way

Decide your fate…

Standing behind the window was a boy staring into his smartphone.

The song died down.

[…]

The boy in a black hood stared out the window with his back facing the camera. What he had in his hand was an old smartphone.

Even in the middle of the night, the city was filled with shimmering lights. The boy's figure was dimmed by the backlight.

The moment his upper body was gradually zoomed in.

The boy turned around and stared at the camera.

It was Park Moondae's face.

The camera swerved away as if surprised. Then in the blink of an eye, drones were seen floating around the boy.

The drones with shimmering luminous lights shot at the camera.

.

Park Moondae looked at the camera with eyes that shimmered in a strange purple light, then threw his smartphone out the window.

And when Park Moondae approached the camera, the screen turned off.

Snap.

Captions showed up.

[Choose Your Side]

[127 Section]

[Coming Soon]

The video ended just like that.

– ????

– !?!?

And the fans were left with question marks and exclamation marks.

* * *

The trailer was a short video of 2 minutes and 42 seconds, and only one verse of the song was cut out.

However, due to the overflowing visual beauty, meaning, and elements connected to the previous album, all kinds of SNS fan accounts and communities forgot about Monday and started talking about the video right away.

– ㅠㅠNo, launching a trailer without warning, is this a way to surprise a new fan like me, seriouslyㅠㅠ Thank you. Please make it into law.

– It”s good that we got rid of the director. They”re doing well without him.

– Doesn’t this sound like a pre-release song? It”s a shame that there”s no choreography, but having a choreography scene would relieve this tension, so this is perfect

– That’s right, it”s not really a one-take, but I like the way it”s edited

– But why is the song called bonus bookㅋㅋㅋ I still don’t know. That mean it”s a bonus book or is it just a video title?

Of course, the news came up right away from the general entertainment community.

==========

[TeSTAR comeback trailer]

: Even the fans don’t know, so they’re in a state of confusion.

==========

– Wow, the smell of money.

– It’s like a movie trailer.

– But there’s no choreography and the song doesn’t seem idol-likeㅜ

– T1 must be investing a lot of money. Lee Sejin is lucky, he went in and had it easy

└Hmm, I think the video quality improved because he came out as an actor this time

└ㅋㅋHe only came out for 20 seconds, can you judge his acting skill from that?

└Aigoo, I'm sorry that the stock you were pushing for at Idol Inc was eliminated, who was it?

– It seems to get eaten by the world view… It's too nerdy

– Seriously, it"s awesome

There were many people who strongly shouted their dislikes, but the comments and views didn"t lie.

And of course, the caption at the end of the video was immediately analyzed and concluded.

==========

[Testar seems to be related to this video game]

: I searched the last caption 127 Section and found a game scheduled to be released in October.

(screenshot article)

It was originally a small development team, but T1 took over.

==========

– Whoo

– A game collab?

– Heol, I like that better. Somehow it felt like a game.

– Then was it just a commercial video?

└Seeing that it”s the comeback trailer… I don’t think it’s an ad… ㅎ

– Hmm I don’t like it. They’re just catching up with their worldview.

– But there are too many things related to the Magical Boy music video to say it’s just for the game, right? The fans are really digging into it

└Did T1 make the game for the Testar”s worldview? ㅋㅋ

└Heol

└No way.

└Seriously, it”s speaking with money;;;

Those who were mildly interested in Testar observed the situation with interest.

Fans went back and forth between worry and expectation, but the next day, the album reservation notice popped up and they decided to wait and see.

– Seeing that money was put in the video, it’s not just some discards. The song is good, and the worldview seems to connect with the last album, so I dig in

– I don’t think this is the title track. I think it’s just a collaboration with the game company. I’m satisfied with this quality trailer!

– I like that the three beats of the song, video, and visual match perfectly, I’m looking forward to the title trackㅠㅠ

However, there were some that were not done yet.

[Hey, have you guys seen this?]

It was the gaming community.

CHAPTER 102

The game developer who made a collab with Testar had gained recognition by releasing several games with strong fanbases even before being acquired by T1.

Thanks to this, there were small game communities involved.

==========

What do you think about the 127 section in the caption of the idol music video?

(Testar comeback trailer video)

==========

– Hmm this… seems to be true

– I saw it. Seoul background, red curse, biohazard, water tank. Isn't it already confirmed?

– No, there's an idol commercial for a game production company like this? (confused emoticon)

– It's the sweet taste of being taken over by a large company.

– Something… Something is happening.

– Ah, I'm glad it's not girl idols. It stops maniacs from flowing in

└Instead, we're stuck with fangirls

.

└It doesn't matter who it is as long as they spend a lot of money, I'm worried these bastards will shut down the server again.

└Ah ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅇㅈ

I couldn't find words like, 'Why do you make something like this with an idol group and smear your image?'

First of all, it was because the video was so cinematic that it brought out the atmosphere of the previously released game background, and the second was… This was because they weren't in a position to make a fuss about such things.

'Abandoned Factory', the producer of <127 Section>, had gained quite a bit of recognition over the past few years for making high-quality games, but it had always lacked management due to its inability to develop charging models properly.

Thanks to this, they just wanted to prevent an early server shutdown.

– Is this a part of the company's investment that I can look forward to?

– Wow! Section 127 will become a national God-game!

– So when is the game coming out… Why didn't the release date come out when you already put out the trailer! (hitting the table emoticon)

└What do you expect from a small store ㅎ?

And after Testar's comeback was sufficiently publicized through articles, the game company announced the release date a little later.

[<127 Section>, a new game from 'Abandoned Factory', will be released in partnership with National Stock Testar]

[Testar's comeback trailer is a collaboration video… <127 Section> coming soon]

– Hurray!

– Wow, their popularity is rising!

– Testar? They're Abandoned Factory's kids.

– Uh-huh Testar is what they call Godstar

As the game enthusiasts were swelling up in anticipation, Testar's fans began to feel uneasy.

– Is this album really for a game commercial?

– Don't tell me you're working on what the director did…?

– No, tell me in detail what and how you collaborated. It's really annoying to put it all together ㅋㅋㅋ

– Do I have to beat up the agency again? ㅠㅠ

……

Fortunately, at the point when fans' anxiety couldn't grow any further, new information was released.

[Testar(TeSTAR) Concept Photo 'Side A']

It was Testar's album concept photo.

And the atmosphere of these photos… It was so refreshing.

There were scenes such as lying in the forest in a white T-shirt, lying on the bed with headphones on, and looking at the natural scenery outside

the window.

And they were all barefoot.

Overall, it was a refreshing and nostalgic scene like a summer day in adolescence.

– No, it's crazy.

– Uwaaa It's refreshing!

– Ahyeon is barefoot…! Barefoot!

– Did you see the cut of Moondae biting apple? Did you?!

– I think I'm going to pass out

– Sigh ㅠㅠㅠ The more I see you guys, the more handsome you get…

Fans were able to edit the photos with peace of mind because of the completely different feeling from the comeback trailer and the previously disclosed information of <127 Section>.

* * *

"Moondae! The response is great!"

"I'm watching it now."

"Haha!"

Keun Sejin laughed and I heard the sound of him crossing the hallway. It seemed he was trying to talk to the other room as well.

I looked at the comments on my smartphone screen. Everyone knew that game collaboration was only a part of the album and naturally

moved on.

‘It seems it was correct to solve them in this order.’

If the fact that it was a game collaboration was revealed late, they might feel betrayed or rejected, and if we strike first, their attention could be sucked into the game.

‘So we approach step by step.’

It was important to build it up without creating a sense of repulsion, and at the same time to blend in with the game in moderation.

‘We can’t get too involved.’

It was better to treat the game collaboration as a side story that made the worldview more enjoyable.

As I was enjoying a sense of satisfaction, a pop-up appeared on the screen of my smartphone.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Are you releasing an album?]

“…”

This… Without a doubt, it was a question with a purpose.

Still, it was something I couldn’t ignore, so I replied.

[Yes. We’re making a comeback at the end of this month.]

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: I see. Then we still have some time.]

Then came an unwelcome suggestion.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: There's a song I made, do you want to use it as a b-side song?]

Are you crazy?

[It's really fine. I can't cause such trouble to sunbae-nim, and the album has already been organically completed. Thank you very much for your suggestion.]

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: It's because there's some story I want to hear. I give it to you because I want to receive something from it, don't worry. You don't have to use it on this album^^]

"…"

[Perhaps, is it about the future?]

I said it in a roundabout way in case there were people who peeked at my text history, but it meant he wanted to hear the information about the future.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Yes.]

[As I said, I don't have much experience, so I don't have much to tell you.]

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: I'll decide after hearing it.^^]

"…"

Ah, I didn't want to see this bastard again.

'I can't cut him off.'

Then I would have to dig up some information.

[Then, I'd like to hear sunbae-nim's stories rather than receiving songs.]

Unlike right before, when the reply came in an instant, it took some time for the reply to come back.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Sure.]

* * *

I was busy preparing the album, so I wanted to postpone meeting this guy until after the activity, but I couldn't.

– At that time, I'll be going abroad for a concert tour.

Thanks to this, I rented a recording studio in the middle of the night after practice.

'Damn it.'

For now, I told the company that I would try to work with him, but I didn't know how that would turn out.

'Although it's not for work anyway.'

Anyway, it was a few minutes later when Cheongryeo arrived.

"Hello. How have you been?"

"Yes, I've been doing well."

"It seems so. The trailer was good… Ah."

Cheongryeo hung a thin coat on the hanger next to the door and turned around expressionlessly.

“Did you already know that game? That it’s going to be an unprecedented hit when it is released? So you made that collab?”

“…We did it because the company asked us to.”

“Ah, I see.”

Cheongryeo smiled and sat down on a chair in the recording studio. Then he took a small object out of his pocket.

It was a USB.

“Then, would you like to listen to the song first?”

This bastard really didn’t listen to people.

“…I am fine with not getting a song.”

“Since we’re meeting in a recording studio, just listen to it.”

Cheongryeo operated the machine in front of the booth, and soon the song started playing.

“…!”

“It’s good, right?”

It was a tropical house song that stuck in my ears.

That made him even more suspicious.

‘I don’t think he’s the kind of person who would give this to someone else.’

“Why do you give it to me instead of using it yourself?”

“Hm, I don’t like this type of music.”

“…Then, how about the juniors from the same company?”

“…”

“Or you can give it to a member of the same team. As a unit activity.”

“…Hm.”

Cheongryeo turned off the song. And locked his jaw.

“As expected, you’re smart… Uselessly so.”

“…!!”

“Actually, I didn’t make this.”

Cheongryeo took out the USB and threw it into the trash can.

“Two years ago, a promising new composer gave it to T-Holic and it was quite a hit… It’s a song that they should’ve done. I intercepted.”

What?

“Ah, I have no sympathy for the composer. This person was sued for plagiarism after this song, but ended up escaping overseas…”

“…”

Cheongryeo smiled awkwardly.

“Well, that was before I came back. He’s doing well now. Because I paid for the song.”

“…”

“But I can’t give a song to a person in our company. I don’t know if it’s going to be a plagiarized song again.”

“…But you’re going to give it to me?”

Cheongryeo smiled.

“Of course, I was going to explain the situation. If I explain it like this, Moondae-ssi will never accept a song from this person again. Isn’t that right?”

“…”

If I hadn’t noticed, he was just going to screw with me like this.

“I think you said before that I noticed because I was uselessly smart.”

“I said that because the fun of explaining it is gone.”

He was skillfully evading it.

Cheongryeo continued with a serious look.

“I want to manage these risks well. I don’t want huge amounts of information… The big flow. Just tell me what you remember about the trends and events. Then I’ll answer as much as I know.”

“…”

I was just studying.

All I remembered was the incidents that frequently appeared on the 9:00 news or the main portal.

But what this guy wanted to know was not the name of the typhoon that would appear summer next year.

“…Do you remember that I was a civil servant examinee?”

“I think you were familiar with the community enough to participate in Idol Inc and win first place.”

There was a misunderstanding here. I answered brazenly.

“It’s just hard work and talent.”

He looked like the type that would go crazy if I brought up the status window. Let’s not say anything.

“…You took care of the cut as if you knew it too well for that matter.”

Even if I sold data as soon as I dropped out of high school, I didn’t think it would work… Um.

Let’s give the closest and most copious examples.

“I knew roughly about it because I dug up idols before the announcement began.”

“…”

Cheongryeo seemed to be speechless for a moment.

“…Huft.”

And he finally let out a sigh.

“You were an idol fan.”

“Yes.”

“…Who were you fans of?”

“MallangDalkom.”

“…”

Cheongryeo sighed again. And he answered in a slightly softer voice.

“…First of all, tell me everything you remember. I’ll answer you too.”

It was a declaration of surrender. I nodded.

“Yes, I’ll do that. Um… Ah, Maximite Biton’s drunk driving will explode early next year…”

“That’s just how he is. Next.”

“Hmm… Muddy-ssi is releasing a carol at the end of this year, and I kept listening to it at restaurants… I think it probably will do well on the music charts.”

“…I see. Next.”

After repeating this three times, Cheongryeo asked grimly.

“…Don’t you know the beat that’s going to be popular next year?”

“If I knew, I would have written it already.”

“…!”

In the end, Cheongryeo admitted that I had no particular information.

“It doesn’t sound like you’re lying… Really.”

“Should I at least tell you the competition rate for next year’s public announcement?”

"…Never mind."

"Hmm."

Now it was my turn to ask a question.

"Do you have any idea why this happened? Or an incident."

"I want to know that, too."

Cheongryeo frowned.

"One thing's for sure, once you've done the task, you won't have to worry about sudden death anymore… Besides, the knowledge of the future still remains, so those years have been very useful…"

The nuance of the word 'useful' in the context was very subtle.

"…Did you steal a song?"

"Ha ha, why do you ask such an obvious question? It's not like they compose the music themselves, isn't it a matter of who gets it from the composer first?"

Cheongryeo smiled brightly.

"It's too bad it ended last year."

"…!"

From those words, I realized.

'This bastard turned back time last year.'

And he went back to before his debut.

That meant… given VTIC's annual leave, it had been running for at least seven years.

Then there were at least eight status abnormalities. If he tried to avoid it without knowing anything, how many times did he fail…

'…No wonder you lost your mind.'

I decided to keep my distance from him in the future.

CHAPTER 103

I returned to the dorm after the fruitless meeting with Cheongryeo.

It was already 3 am. Of course, everyone was sleeping.

'...I have to get out of bed at 8 tomorrow.'

I had to go to bed right away. I lowered the sound of my footsteps and hurried to my room.

And I was surprised.

"...!"

"Hu..."

It was because Lee Sejin was cooped up in his bed, staring at his smartphone and crying.

Light leaked from the phone screen and showed Lee Sejin's crying face.

'...Are you watching Netfler?'

I was very embarrassed.

"..."

I deliberately made a slight sound of footsteps and crossed the room. It was to give him time to patch things up.

'I'll wash up first and change my clothes.'

And after taking a shower in the bathroom, Lee Sejin was invisible with the blanket pulled over his head.

That side was embarrassed, too.

'…Now, then.'

I lay down on the bed. I didn't have to wear earplugs at this late hour.

However, it wasn't long before I regretted not wearing it.

"…Sniff."

It was because the sound of crying from next to me echoed dully.

No matter how you heard it, it was the sound of crying with one's face buried in the pillow under the blanket.

'I'm going crazy.'

I seriously contemplated lying back with earplugs on, but eventually, I got up and approached the bed next to me.

And I tapped on the blanket.

"Hyung, is something wrong?"

"…!!"

The blanket rattled and a cough resounded.

'Tears, runny nose, and even saliva came out… '

I waited with my arms crossed because even if it wasn't seen by others, it didn't show what it was like.

"…You didn't wear earplugs?"

"I didn't know I would need to wear it at this early hour."

There was a sound of tossing and turning again. And Lee Sejin's voice sounded calmer, closer to normal.

"…Now, it's not a big deal."

"…"

It meant there was something going on.

At that moment, a faint warning sound rang in my head.

"…Hyung, don't tell me, is it a drug problem?"

"Are you crazy?"

Hm, so it wasn't that.

Frightened, I confirmed with Lee Sejin, who had come out of the blanket, and went back to bed.

Even though it was dark, I could see Lee Sejin's face turning red.

"Do I look like a junkie?"

"Nope… I just met Cheongryeo sunbae-nim today, and I heard a story about someone who went on drugs. I asked because I suddenly remembered."

"…"

Lee Sejin must have recalled some specific examples, he looked uncomfortable.

"…It's best not to get involved in anything like that. It's better if you don't create lines at all for the weirdos."

"I understand."

I shrugged my shoulders and covered myself with the blanket.

'It's become ambiguous to ask more.'

Lee Sejin seemed to be trying to grow in his own way, so he would tell if a big problem occurred.

But let's say this just in case.

"Hyung."

"What is it?"

"If you're having a hard time, just say it."

"…Yes."

"To Chungwoo hyung."

"…Hey!"

I waved and lay flat.

And I fell asleep in an instant.

* * *

As the comeback approached, my fatigue started to increase due to practicing and scheduling at the same time.

"Still, it's better than the debut album."

“I think so too.”

Compared to the time when we were preparing for the double title album within a month like a fairy, this was still acceptable within the group.

Certainly. I had at least enough time to sleep, so it was helpful.

‘I also have time to monitor.’

I checked the current flow with my smartphone.

Um, until a few days ago, fans were starting to compare concept photos and album specifications that were recently released.

– Crazy, the album came out in two formats, Side A and B, so the name of the album is Choose Your Side? The geeks are crying over these details

– I push A for refreshing and B for dreamy.

└What about the trailer?

└Isn’t that just an intro song?

└I think it’s Side B

– No, Magical Boy props definitely appeared in the trailerㅠㅠ It’s hard to say it’s just a game advertisement, but the game hasn’t been released yet, so I can’t even compare it…!

└Hello, sir. Abandoned Factory has only released god games so far. Please try it when it’s released…!

└Ah, yes, I understand.

And today, the second concept photo was released.

[Testar(TeSTAR) Concept Photo ‘Side B’]

It was the pictures of Testar wearing a classic winter uniform.

There was a connection with the last album, but the atmosphere was clearly different.

It was because the classroom in the background wasn’t worn out or broken, but instead, it was covered with graffiti that shone with fluorescent light.

In addition, the material of the classroom wall that was seen over the graffiti was not the usual ivory color, but the rusty chromium structure.

Some members were carrying gas masks or unique mechanical equipment. The equipment also glowed like a neon sign.

It was obviously a pseudo-punk with a dystopian feel.

– Uwaaa

– Crazy, cyberpunk

– I love it.

– Looks like they didn’t pack winter uniforms in the last album… Our kids learned too much. Loviewers are almost hanging by a thread

– ㅠㅠㅠChungwoo finally dyed his hair, guys. Although it’s close to black hair… But it’s still blue. I’m so happy. Everyone, be happy.

– I only thought about Dream 2, but I broke my head…

– I really like both concept photos, I hope the album comes out soon ㅠㅠ

Without having to manage public opinion, the fans were happy

‘It seems my worries about the game are almost gone.’

In fact, this concept photo had quite a lot of similarities with the trailer, but maybe because I felt good, a lot of my foreboding seemed to have disappeared.

And the overall response was good in most Internet communities, not just in places where only fans gathered.

==========

[Testar Choose Your Side Concept Photo]

: Side A (photo)

Side B (photo)

The current opinion is that they are generally well-chosen

==========

– Oh so handsome

– Seon Ahyeon gets more handsome every time I see him

– Their concept is always excessive, but it feels like they’re pushing it with money.

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ Perfect description

└I’m a fan of 2D, that’s why I started watching them

– Kim Raebin is really good in the second concept. It stands out because he looks more decadent than looking like a bully.

– I'm looking forward to the music video. When it comes up, put it up here, too!

Some people tried to change public opinion somehow but to no avail.

– Whatever… Where did you pick it well?ㅋㅋ

– Hn, public opinion is fine wherever I go. Everyone says they did well here, too

└Maybe it's because the fans cameㅠㅠ

└If all these numbers are fans, aren't they public opinion?ㅋㅋㅋ

It mostly ended like this.

'It's too bad.'

I smiled and left the article.

"M-Moondae… You're watching the internet?"

"Yeah, I checked the response to the newly released concept photo."

"I-I see."

Seon Ahyeon didn't bother to ask what the public opinion was like.

I heard that he was training himself not to care too much about 'what other people think of me'.

Seon Ahyeon's face was bright these days, perhaps the new doctor was a good fit.

‘Didn’t you say you would start correcting your pronunciation in earnest after this activity?’

Mm, I hoped it worked out.

“I-It was really hot when we took our pictures.”

As soon as Seon Ahyeon said that, shouts of agreement erupted here and there.

“That’s right!”

“Because of the abnormal temperature and the heat wave in early autumn, the air conditioning on the set was extremely insufficient!”

“…”

Thank you for speaking up for me.

“Still, Sejin’s complexion didn’t change when taking pictures. Amazing.”

“A great actor!”

“I agree.”

Lee Sejin, who was suddenly praised, almost spewed out the water he was drinking, but soon answered quietly.

“…Thank you.”

“I just said you did a good job.”

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and resumed stretching.

The scene of reviving Lee Sejin’s spirit when he couldn’t keep up with the pace of learning new choreography was now quite familiar.

‘Well, it’s not just some empty talk.’

Once content that required acting was included, Lee Sejin’s skills were overwhelming.

Next to him, Keun Sejin grumbled playfully.

“Hey, that’s too much~ Let’s not forget that Sejin is here too, guys. I took a good picture too~!”

“Haha!”

“Wow, hyung, you’re so cool.”

“Eugene, you have no spirit.”

“I can’t lie. Oops!”

Keun Sejin lightly put a headlock on Cha Eugene and let him go with a laugh. Lee Sejin turned his head.

‘Those two are still at odds.’

It didn’t seem like they were going to fight, it was just… It felt like they didn’t want to be together because they didn’t like each other.

“Then, let’s start practicing again~”

“Yes!”

After a short break, the choreography continued.

“Look at your feet closely~”

“This way~”

The members, whose advice from the choreographer stuck to their lips, mimicked his voice and danced to the chorus. It was a spectacle where everyone couldn't hold back their laughter and the corners of their lips kept rising.

However, Lee Sejin still seemed to be having a hard time following. He was looking at the mirror with his mouth closed.

'It's understandable.'

His dance was still D+.

It would be difficult for a person who wasn't very talented in dancing to surpass it in a short period of time because going beyond one alphabetical stage was a level where some of your classifications would change.

'I think he can surpass it soon if he keeps going like this.'

I checked Lee Sejin's stats window.

[Name: Lee Sejin]

Vocal: C- (B+)

Dance: D+ (B)

Visual: A+ (S)

Talent: A (S-)

Characteristic: Focus (B)

!Status abnormality:

His vocal was already at C. Originally, it was higher than the dance, so I thought it was upgraded at a relatively quick speed.

Besides, Lee Sejin's dance potential stat was 'B', so if he kept going until C, it would go up.

'On top of that, that characteristic.'

It was pretty good.

[Focus (B)]

: I want to make it happen

– Concentration +100%

It had a simple name and description, but it seemed quite versatile. I'd probably keep it if it appeared to me.

'Come to think of it, I need to organize my status window.'

I brought out my status window.

[Name: Park Moondae (Ryu Gunwoo)]

Level: 15

Title: None

Vocal: A

Dance: B-

Visual: B+

Talent: B

Characteristics: Infinite potential, I heard it's true (C), Bacchus 500 (B), Snatching ears (A)

!Status abnormality: Win an award or die

The remaining points: 3]

It was a splendid feat brought about by achieving stage achievements up to the 100th and practice achievements up to the 5000th.

I received additional stats by updating the pop-up that appeared when I put on a good performance a couple more times.

In the process, I also received a characteristic draw…

[Characteristic: Faucet under the eyes (B)]

Turning on and off with ease!

: Tear control ability MAX.

I threw it away immediately. Damn it.

Anyway, even without this, I received a lot.

'…The debut activity was tough.'

It seemed my reward for not being able to sleep came out here. But this wasn't the most surprising thing either.

…What surprised me most was that talent stats increased naturally.

……I speculated that W Live, fan signing events, etc. had an impact.

Of course, other than me and Lee Sejin, most of the members naturally increased their stats, but first of all…

“Moondae, stop thinking about something else~!”

“…”

I immediately stopped thinking when I heard Keun Sejin call my name.

‘Let’s focus on practice first.’

And after a while, the last accompaniment ended.

Keun Sejin wiped off his sweat and asked out of courtesy.

“Huft, shall we play it again from the beginning?”

“Let’s do that.”

“Yes!”

Keun Sejin raised the A- dance stat to A, and his speed of picking up the choreography given by the choreographer became much faster.

‘I envy you.’

The moment I thought about putting all the remaining points into the dance.

Lee Sejin fell to the floor during the choreography’s intro that started playing again.

“…Gasp!”

“Are you okay?”

“…I am fine.”

Lee Sejin tried to stand up but he hesitated.

Then he lay down, grabbed his ankle, and bit his mouth.

…I had a bad feeling.

CHAPTER 104

“Hyung, are you okay?”

“Sejin, let’s see your ankle.”

“…”

Lee Sejin looked at his ankle with a pale face, and eventually clenched his teeth and pulled his pants to check its condition.

His ankle was swollen.

‘…This isn’t good.’

The injury was confirmed.

“…!”

“I-It’s all right! I-It’s a little swollen, but… I-If you go straight to the hospital…”

Seon Ahyeon looked at the ankle and shouted urgently. As a dance major, he seemed to have some knowledge of ankle injuries.

“Yes, Sejin, sit down for now. Let’s call our manager and go to the emergency room right away.”

“…Yes.”

Lee Sejin sat down in a chair in the corner of the dance room with Ryu Chungwoo’s stable support.

And shortly afterward, he left for the hospital with the manager who had been contacted.

“G-Go together…”

“No!!… You can’t delay the practice because of me. I’ll be back.”

Lee Sejin strongly refused to be accompanied and left the dance practice room with the help of the two managers.

“I hope it’s not a big deal.”

“I hope so too.”

“I-It’s not that swollen… I-It will be fine.”

Since it was just a fall, everyone resumed practice again, thinking that it wouldn’t be a major injury.

However, it was only after the dance practice was over that Lee Sejin returned.

Besides, he wasn’t alone.

“Ah~ Is this our Sejin’s dorm? It’s nice!”

“…”

“Yeah? I’ll come often.”

“…Because of my schedule, I’m rarely at the dorm.”

“Is that so~? Then this dad can come in and take care of it. You don’t have to refuse.”

“…It’s fine.”

Lee Sejin was being supported by a middle-aged man, but looking at the man's face, it seemed he was his father.

However, the conversation smelled like a convenience store part-timer and drunken Karen.

(TL note: I feel the need to explain. The real word used here is Korean slang for a rude customer. I figured I should use the English equivalent to fit the context more.)

'…?'

"Ah, our Sejin's friends~ I am Sejin's dad!"

"Ah, sir. Hello."

"Hello!"

"What do you mean with sir~ When I go out with Sejin, people think I'm his eldest brother."

"Haha, you look young."

Keun Sejin cut him off while receiving the conversation.

Then Ryu Chungwoo continued with a smile.

"Thank you for taking Sejin home. We have to film the dorm now…"

"Ah, I'll sit there quietly! Keep filming~"

"…"

Ryu Chungwoo looked a little at loss.

I checked Lee Sejin's expression.

It wasn't embarrassment or bashfulness for introducing rude parents, but more like fatigue and shame that appeared and disappeared quickly.

'...It seems he's really a Karen?'

Keun Sejin waved his hand to Lee Sejin's father.

"Ei~ Sejin's father, we'll have to formally invite you next time. Is it okay to treat a member's parents like this? We will prepare and get back to you!"

"You don't have to do that~ I'll be gone after a while. It's because I'm having a hard time supporting him."

In other words, there was only one way to get rid of him.

I hurriedly went into my room and returned with something.

"Sejin's father, you must have worked hard, so come in and eat comfortably."

It was a red ginseng set that I received as a holiday gift from the company.

"...! Aigoo~ I'm not the kind of person who accepts things like this. Hmm? I didn't mean to ask for something like this."

The middle-aged man quickly took the red ginseng while saying obvious things. I nodded obediently.

"Of course. You want to see the dorm where your son is staying. I am glad and sorry that you can't do that due to our schedule."

"Okay~ Hn? You're the friend who won first place, right? The friend Sejin picked. Yeah, very reliable. Sejin, hurry up and say thank you."

"…"

"Oh, it's time for our manager to come because of our filming. Get home safe."

"…Mm, yes, I'm off~ I'll be back soon."

Lee Sejin's father glanced at Lee Sejin, then slowly opened the door and left.

"…"

Lee Sejin lowered his head.

"That, y-you have to sit down…"

When Seon Ahyeon approached, Lee Sejin reflexively waved his hand and swung it away.

"…!"

Fortunately, Seon Ahyeon avoided his hand. And Lee Sejin was horrified.

"I… I'm sorry!!!"

"I-It's all right!"

What a mess.

In any case, Lee Sejin glanced at his room and looked as though he wanted to want to run away, but instead of running away, as if recalling past experiences, he went to the sofa in the living room and sat down.

'…It could be that it's just difficult getting to his room because of his legs.'

Because he was wearing a half-cast.

Anyway, thanks to that, an atmosphere to talk was created.

“…Is that your father?”

“…Yeah.”

In the heavy atmosphere, Kim Raebin carefully raised his hand.

“Then, where did the manager hyung go and your parents come from?”

“…There was a problem, and it seemed the manager contacted him on the way in a hurry.”

Originally, the manager would rather have contacted someone from another company, but it seemed he contacted the parents because the second manager who came in later was a newcomer.

And in the slightly heavy atmosphere, Cha Eugene asked the most important thing.

“Is your ankle okay?”

“-! T-That’s right, ankle!”

“How long do you think it will take to recover?”

“…It wasn’t a big deal. I just have to be careful for a few weeks.”

“Hmm, they fixed it a little too well for that.”

“I overdid it on purpose… because I want to get better soon.”

A few members raised their thumbs.

Mostly the minors.

“Hyung…”

“So cool!”

Only then did Lee Sejin’s expression loosen.

And, as if a little embarrassed, he spoke with a faint smile.

“…I’ll make sure I don’t bother the group.”

“Ei~”

Lee Sejin’s smile darkened slightly.

“……I won’t let Father come either. Don’t worry.”

“…”

It was so ambiguous.

‘That’s what family affairs are like.’

It wasn’t the kind of thing to ask for it in a group situation like this.

“…? Wouldn’t it be fine if he comes?”

…I forgot that Kim Raebin was here. It seemed he didn’t notice the strange atmosphere that had flowed earlier.

At Raebin Kim’s question, Lee Sejin became embarrassed and began to stutter like a sea cucumber spitting out its intestines.

“That… This dorm is spacious, he might insist on staying here.”

“Then tell the company and get permission…”

“…Don’t! He has bad hand habits… Anyway, he’s not a good person to be with.”

Lee Sejin looked like he didn’t even know why he was talking about this.

And he quickly finished talking.

“…Anyway, I won’t let him come, so you don’t have to worry about it. T-That’s it.”

Then he quickly got up from the sofa and waddled into the room.

The remaining members in the living room looked back at each other blankly.

“…”

“Hmm, well… His ankle seems to be okay, shall we go to bed now?”

“Let’s do that for now.”

Idling around, everyone got up from their seats at Keun Sejin’s arrangement.

“Eugene, don’t watch Netfler and go to sleep.”

“I don’t want to…”

Cha Eugene, who was playing Netfler in the living room, turned off the TV depressedly at Ryu Chungwoo’s words and trudged into his room.

“…Um.”

Netfler. It reminded me of Lee Sejin crying in his bed a while ago.

‘It wasn’t Netfler… No way, was it because of his father?’

…I hoped it wasn’t an issue.

…Not only was it difficult to solve, but I also didn’t know what would happen to Lee Sejin’s paper-like mentality.

I headed to the room feeling uncomfortable.

Then I made eye contact with Lee Sejin, who was struggling to put his half-cast leg on top of the hamster body pillow.

“…”

“…”

Lee Sejin looked embarrassed and averted his gaze.

‘I’ll pretend I didn’t see it.’

I went to bed pretending to look at my smartphone and sat down.

Then, Lee Sejin started talking.

“…I’m sorry. Take my red ginseng.”

Oh, it’s about that. I nodded.

“Yes. I will eat well.”

“Alright.”

As soon as the room was about to sink into a peaceful silence, Lee Sejin, who was checking something, hurriedly continued.

“B-But I already opened it and ate one or two. I’ll buy you a new one, so take this.”

“…? It’s all right. I’ll just eat it. Well.”

“…Huft.”

I heard Lee Sejin let out a long sigh. It sounded more like embarrassment or emptiness than relief.

.

Lee Sejin muttered as he looked at his cast pressing down on the hamster.

“Why do I keep… being a burden?”

“There’s no such thing.”

“…Anyway, I’ll pull myself together this time, so you don’t have to worry about it.”

“…Yes.”

Turning his head, Lee Sejin looked at his smartphone. His eyes seemed to be burning with determination.

Are you watching the dance video?

‘…Well, passion is good.’

It’s good to have motivation. Just don’t ask me for it.

I turned off my smartphone and put on earplugs.

The last thing I checked was Lee Sejin, who was staring at his smartphone with a serious face.

Somehow, the scene of him holding his smartphone and crying overlapped.

'…Could it be that he's trying to solve the issue regarding his father?'

It was often seen on the Internet bulletin board looking for cider, but in reality, family-related problems were not likely to be solved so easily.

'Well… It's even funnier coming from me.'

Isn't it strange for a person without a family to give advice? I just decided to go to sleep.

However, Lee Sejin seemed to be looking at his smartphone for quite a while this time as well.

* * *

A few days later, I was on my way back from the last meeting with the collab game <127 Section>.

I heard that the game production team was so excited to see the trailer that projected their own work.

Consequently… I received this result.

"Wow, they modified it to make them look like us."

"This is totally me!"

"I have a mole on my cheek…"

Some of the external characteristics of Testar members were lightly reflected in the appearance of the initial characters.

– No, I didn't fix everything, I just tweaked it a little in the materials we had.

– What do you think? It totally reminds me of the trailer! Especially, Lee Sejin's rimless glasses! We unanimously revised it right away

…Well, it was mostly like that.

By the way, I heard that my character had changed from double eyelids to inner double eyelids, I'm sorry, but… I don't know the difference.

"Huft~ It's fun and difficult."

"We can do it!"

"Let's do our best!"

The music video was released a few days later. The schedule became busier, but even with the heavy workload, the feeling of 'doing well' was definitely addictive.

Thanks to this, all of Testar members had happy faces. And this included Lee Sejin.

Looking somewhat relieved, Lee Sejin exchanged conversations with Ryu Chungwoo with a fairly relaxed face.

His leg injury seemed to be recovering well, and I thought it would be nice for things to go smoothly until the comeback like this…

The incident happened on the way out of the company.

"Lee Sejin! Come here, huh?!"

"…!"

A familiar middle-aged man was sitting in front of the lobby at the back door of the company and jumped up when he saw Lee Sejin.

Of course, it was Lee Sejin's father.

Lee Sejin's face turned blue.

*'F*ck.'*

Fortunately, the two managers blocked him right away.

"Sejin's father, you can't do this!"

"Calm down!"

"Let go! People these days are f*cking rude! Oh! You're so oppressing!!!"

Lee Sejin's father faltered when the bulky manager blocked him, but he pointed his finger until the end as he was dragged away.

"I won't leave you alone! This unfilial child will receive retribution!"

"…"

The noisy lobby soon became quiet as Lee Sejin's father was dragged away.

But after a while, a more tumultuous situation occurred.

CHAPTER 105

The manager returned and reported the predictable, goal-hitting news.

"…You tried to report it to the police?"

"Yes. What kind of assault is this… I really sweated a lot."

The first manager wiped off his cold sweat, saying the man almost gave us a strange rumor before the comeback. And he grumbled.

"Then why did I bother to contact him… Tsk."

Those words were aimed at the second manager who was not present.

By the way, Lee Sejin wasn't here because he was accompanying the agency to the interview.

"How did he get into the lobby?"

"At that time, on the way back from the hospital, Sejin said he would go to the practice room, so he came to the company. The guards said they let him in because he was a member's parents."

"Aha~"

Keun Sejin exclaimed, but his face didn't look good.

'It's not a problem that can be blocked from the source.'

Family gossip could continue even if the person involved was disowned.

In addition, causing that much disturbance in the lobby, that man clearly wasn't an ordinary person, so there was enough possibility that it could be a problem later.

"…Anyway, Sejin must have been surprised, so treat him well when he comes to the dorm."

"Of course."

"I understand."

From an ankle injury to family issues, it was almost certain that he was having a hard time mentally.

The members nodded their heads, but they seemed to be worrying about the situation in their own way.

And soon after, Lee Sejin returned to the dorm wearing a half-cast.

It was the same situation as a few days ago, but the difference was not the lack of a companion.

Lee Sejin's face was grim.

"…?"

As if they noticed that sign, the members hesitantly started talking.

"Sejin, um… Did the talk end well?"

"Are you okay?"

"Yes… I am perfectly fine."

Lee Sejin said as if he was determined, and then he steadfastly walked through the front door and headed for the kitchen.

And he drank a cup of water in one shot.

Gulp.

Lee Sejin put the cup down on the table and spoke after taking a deep breath.

“Tomorrow… I will apply for a restraining order.”

“…!”

“T-To your father?”

“Father my ass, that bastard got divorced when I was young, he doesn’t have custody…!”

Some members were taken aback when they heard Lee Sejin swearing for the first time.

“…Do you have any evidence?”

“It’s not like I’m applying for a grand prize… I will do it for my mother.”

“…!”

“…Sigh.”

Lee Sejin sighed and explained the situation in moderation.

“…It seems he has been contacting my mother and extorting money ever since I became a bit popular as a child actor.”

However, it was said that his mother didn’t bother to reveal the situation to young Lee Sejin. He found out about this for the first time.

“He rarely did it after I took a break from my child activities, but… He started contacting her again when I came out on <Idol Inc.>.”

Lee Sejin swallowed and continued in a slightly shaky voice.

“I… I just thought they split up because of personality differences. He said he had a hard time, so I sent him money…”

It was said that the amount he demanded gradually increased, accompanied by subtle verbal abuse and threats.

“…Because the program worked so well, it had been like that almost every day since the later half of the program.”

Lee Sejin’s face turned pale as if he was recalling the time.

‘…Is that why you’d become especially sensitive since the 3rd competition?’

At that time, his mental state had already burst.

“…Then, I found out while talking openly with my mom on the last vacation.”

From the beginning, they were divorced because of his gambling and hand habits, and Sejin’s father continued to make financial threats.

“…”

There was a moment of anxious silence.

“…Then why are you still in contact with him…?”

“…I-If I moved recklessly, my mom… It could be a nuisance to the group. Already… I had a problem with my agency last time.”

Lee Sejin clenched his teeth and brushed his eyes vigorously.

“I’ve decided not to run away, so I’ll do whatever I can… That’s what I thought… But it didn’t work out.”

“…”

“I apologize in advance, if I apply for a restraining order… An article might come out. The company said they’d try to stop it as much as possible, but…”

Lee Sejin bowed his head.

“If there’s a problem again… I’m sorry.”

“…!”

“Sejin, you don’t have to apologize for this.”

“I-It’s really fine…!”

Among the members who were at loss, Keun Sejin opened his mouth with a kind face as if he was sorry.

“Um… Hyung-nim, I’m sorry to hear that. I don’t think anything will end with just applying for a restraining order, so shouldn’t we think of another method?”

“…I know.”

Lee Sejin swallowed.

“Therefore… I found out where he gambles.”

“-!! H-How?”

"…Is that important? Anyway, I'm going to call the police there."

"Gasp!"

"Then he'll go to jail. In the meantime, I can get the settlement and send my mom to a place with better security."

"Oh!"

Among the admiring minors, I thought to myself.

'Isn't illegal gambling only getting a fine?'

Even if they got a sentence, I had only seen cases where it ended with probation.

In addition, it was also a matter of whether the police who received the report would believe it and send their men.

"…Isn't it going to end with a suspended sentence?"

"I don't think so. He used to cheat while working at a casino."

"…!"

"I recorded everything he said to threaten me. A gangster or something like that… I can send it to the police anonymously if need be."

It was said that he had a gambling problem, so I thought he was just addicted, but he turned out to be a full-fledged criminal.

Well, I understood Lee Sejin's desire for cider and I got the big picture. However, in this case the situation would become more dangerous.

'If a criminal goes around saying he's Lee Sejin's dad, it'll hurt even more.'

As expected, it would be better to visibly cut off his relationship with Lee Sejin… Hmm. There was one thing I could think of.

'I'm not sure if he'll be okay with it.'

Let's bring it up for now.

"I think we should stop someone with such a criminal record from borrowing hyung's name and saying unnecessary things later. He might come out of prison and call himself hyung's father and start an investment scam."

"…!!"

"How about drawing a line here?"

"H-How…?"

I spun my finger.

"Hyung, change your name to your mother's last name."

"…!! Cough."

"It will completely erase your connection with your father."

Was it an unimaginable unconventional proposal?

Lee Sejin choked.

"Calm down."

Lee Sejin added another glass of water to the glass he was drinking earlier. Lee Sejin drank it in a one-shot, then muttered with a bewildered face.

“That… That idea… I never thought about it.”

“Me, too.”

“M-Me, too.

Cha Eugene and Sun Ahyeon agreed blankly next to each other.

Keun Sejin seemed to search quickly on his smartphone and then nodded.

“Oh~ if you’re not a minor, you can do it without your parent’s permission. Still, It is said that a letter of opinion will be sent, so the perfect time would be when he gets distracted with the report of his gambling place! I think you should go for it.”

Lee Sejin made a mysterious face.

“…Then it will take quite a while, and it’s also a bit difficult to change it in the middle of our comeback activity…”

Mm, his worries were pointless.

“You can just use it as your stage name right away.”

“…!!”

“Ah, I see. Once you change your activity name, you can change your name naturally!”

Kim Raebin was impressed. And Lee Sejin still looked puzzled.

‘Well, if you suddenly have to change your last name, of course, you would be troubled.’

It was kind of funny that I, who had both my first name and surname changed, had that thought.

Anyway, he had a career built under that name since he was a child actor, so he had plenty of reasons to feel reluctant.

‘He can refuse.’

The moment I thought like that, Lee Sejin nodded solemnly.

“…It’s great! My last name doesn’t matter.”

His eyes were burning.

‘…It was the same gaze as when he looked at his smartphone a few days ago.’

Maybe it was a desire for cider.

Anyway, the members clapped at Lee Sejin’s bold declaration of the name change.

“Ooh!”

Lee Sejin turned his head as if embarrassed.

‘You’ve come to a conclusion.’

I immediately made an additional request.

“Make sure to tell the company to pick an article with the nuance that your parents were divorced for reasons credited to your father. Not openly, but just enough that it can be guessed between the lines.”

It meant don’t drag it out with aggro and don’t leave any opening.

Of course, the company would take good care of it, but there was nothing to lose if you grabbed it all at once and moved on.

Lee Sejin had an expression as if he was recalling something.

"…I thought about it last time, but you… No, it's nothing."

"…? Go on."

"I said it's nothing."

Well, if you say so.

Ryu Chungwoo joined the conversation with a slightly awkward smile.

"In fact, apart from the purposes that have just been mentioned… I think it's a good decision. The last name from a mother who loves you is much better than the one you got from someone like that."

"…Right."

"Anyway, thank you for making a difficult decision. Sejin."

"…It's not difficult."

Lee Sejin must have used up half a year's worth of social skills, he returned to his usual blunt tone.

"Ah, anyway. I'll just call the company."

"Yes!"

"I'm glad it ended well."

"…Thank you."

“Hehe.”

“You’ve worked hard~”

Keun Sejin also smiled and added a well-wishing remark.

He still didn’t seem to be very fond of Lee Sejin, but at least he didn’t seem annoyed this time around.

Lee Sejin seemed to have no time to be uncomfortable with Keun Sejin because he was so immersed in his task.

‘That’s good.’

There was no need to attach them together.

In that harmonious atmosphere, I threw a question that suddenly occurred to me.

“Come to think of it, what is your mother’s last name?”

Then Lee Sejin’s ears turned red.

What is it?

“…Bae.”

“Yes?”

“I said it’s Bae[1]Actor=배우=Baeu. Hence, the reaction !”

“…!!”

…Turning around like that, Lee Sejin, the former child actor, really became Bae Sejin.

It was a relief that Bae Sejin himself seemed satisfied because it was a surname derived from his mother this time, not an abbreviation of the word actor.

It was the same name, but it was a little bit strange that such a different result came out just because of the perception of the receiving side… It was fun in theory.

But this wasn't the most surprising part of the case.

It appeared in an Internet article that Bae Sejin looked up a few days later.

"This is it!"

Bae Sejin showed his smartphone to me with an unusually excited face.

"…?"

I read the article.

==========

[XXX City illegal gambling house operators are arrested… And checked for drugs]

: Gyeonggi-do Northern Police Station announced on the 12th that a gambling house was opened in the basement of a building in XX City on the 11th and arrested Mr. A (43) and five others for illegal gambling.

In addition, 2.2 kg of pill-type drugs were found inside the gambling establishment…

==========

"…!!"

“What do you think? I don’t need to worry about it for years!”

“…Yes.”

I really don’t have to worry about it anymore.

It was the day the Schrödinger’s junkie was caught on his back feet.

* * *

And a few days later, it was around the time when Bae Sejin took off his half-cast and changed it to a light protector.

‘The music video teaser is coming out at midnight today.’

It was like a signal for a full-scale activity.

And now, the day had come when I had to make the choice I had been putting off.

The point distribution.

‘Status window.’

The points I could use were 3. I plan to keep one of them for an emergency and use the other two points.

The question was where to use it.

“Hmm.”

I decided where to distribute the points without thinking much about it.

And before actually raising the stats, I decided to do what I had to do first.

“Hyung.”

“Yeah?”

“What do you think about changing the salon?”

It was an advanced version of what I had done during <Idol Inc.>.

- 1. Actor=배우=Baeu. Hence, the reaction

CHAPTER 106

Bae Sejin's change of name received a moderate amount of attention and passed by safely.

It was because he only changed his surname, and since the new name was one of the nicknames people used to distinguish him from Keun Sejin, it didn't create a sense of incongruity.

==========

[Testar's Bae Sejin really changed his name to Bae Sejin]

: His mother's last name is Bae ㅋㅋㅋㅋ He said he changed his name in respect of his mother who raised him alone, but it's funny that his nickname becomes his real name ㅋㅋㅋ (article link)

==========

– Hn is this real? ㅋㅋ

– Interesting ㅋㅋㅋ

– An unimaginably good son ㄴㅇㄱ

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Well, there are also personal family matters, but there are two Lee Sejin on Testar, maybe he changed it because people got confused, they can't keep putting on the alphabet like that ㅋㅋ

- ㅋㅋㅋ It's nice that the fans won't get confused

However, the fans didn't blindly love it.

Bae Sejin was not a nickname that the fans used to call him, but rather it was a nickname that spread because that was how the viewers of <Idol Inc.> used to sarcastically call him an 'actor'.

As time passed, the negative nuances were mostly buried, but fans who still remembered its first origin couldn't help but feel strange.

However, after reading the full text of the article, there was a subtle atmosphere in which the fans would accept the change positively.

==========

…According to his agency, T1 Stars Entertainment, Bae Sejin said, "I know that there is an existing nickname that overlaps with the name I am changing to now. It's a strange thing, and I want to take this as an opportunity as well. I hope the fans can approach this nickname with a new feeling."

==========

This was because they could feel Bae Sejin's willingness to break through it head-on.

– Bae Sejin's name is like a gift from his mother, that's how it is from now on

– I never used that nickname in case Sejin gets hurt. But Sejin is saying I can use it…

– There are a lot of people who have a bad relationship with their fathers, but our Baese is a good son. A good son to his mother and a good son to his fansㅠㅠ thump thump

– Hmm, out of two, I don't want to change Little Sejin to that nickname, but looking from a professional point of view, I understand. It seems Sejin is a much stronger person than I thought.

Not just in Bae Sejin's personal fandom, but within Testar's fandom as well, they said 'It's nice that we won't get confused, it's cool and cute' and moved on.

There was not much objection because the general atmosphere was that 'Lee Sejins' were not referred to by their real name in order to distinguish them.

However, Keun Sejin's malicious fan accounts became noisy for a while.

– Ah, did he finally get his Lee Sejin's name back? I felt like s*hit when I had to search with his nickname every time I left out his real name

– I quickly caught on to the bastard's scheme. I was so pissed when I saw he gave himself a nickname to suit the actor's mind ㅋㅋㅋ 'That person' changes his name and even takes care of his image. Wow, great^^

– Don't put a political frame on our kid, you should put it on your head.

However, this reaction only fluctuated briefly below the surface and ended.

Thus, just like Testar and the company wished, the change of name naturally settled among the public without much turbulence.

And by the time Bae Sejin's change of name was no longer news.

The comeback date was approaching.

* * *

“Finally.”

The grad student, who had gotten released from the lab after two days of staying up all night, staggered past the front door. Her dog was enjoying a nap in the living room.

But she couldn’t sleep.

‘I have to watch Testar’s music video.’

Even though it was released at midnight yesterday, she still hadn’t seen it.

Thanks to this, all she knew was the last teaser video she saw.

That one wasn’t even much of a content because it was just a combination of short scenes similar to concept photos that were tied to one melody.

Thanks to that, she was really curious about the music video, but…

It was late anyway, so she clenched her teeth and rushed home with the thought of watching it on a big screen.

As soon as the grad student washed her face with cold water, she immediately sat down in front of the computer. And with a pounding heart, she entered Wetube.

Without further ado, as soon as she entered the popularity tab, the title that she had been waiting for appeared at the top.

[Testar(TeSTAR) ‘Airplane (Airplane)’ Official MV]

“…Whoa!!!”

She could finally see it. Finally!! She clicked on the music video right away, only looking at the thumbnail and nothing else.

The first thing that appeared was a white school hallway across the blue sky.

The fantastic screen, like an abstract painting, strangely reminded her of the previous Magical Boy concept.

But before she could take a good look at it, the cut suddenly changed to a pitch-black hallway with the same format.

'Huh?'

The black corridor was dripping with water from all sides. Graffiti drawn with glow-in-the-dark paint and flickering emergency lights were distorted by running water and flashed strangely.

And at that moment, someone appeared at the end of the hallway.

"…!"

A dark figure stumbled and hurriedly walked forward with his hands on the wall.

The moment she thought she caught a glimpse of who it was.

The black figure suddenly outstretched his palm and covered the camera.

[…]

The screen turned black. And…

An acoustic guitar began to resound.

"…?!"

It was an unexpected, frighteningly clear sound.

And the palm fell off the screen.

A clear blue sky and a sky full of white clouds. Beneath it was an old school.

But it didn't look unsightly.

The small school, nestled between the mountains and the trees like a painting, looked like something out of a teen novel.

And the next moment.

A boy was standing in front of the school gate.

[…]

The boy's back seemed to hesitate for a moment, but he soon grabbed the doorknob.

The moment the door slowly started to open.

A clear, fresh voice began to sing.

– My heart is pounding.

I want to blow it somewhere

everything without leaving a single point

– Open the window now

I'm going to send it to the sky.

The paper airplane that I folded today…

The boy ran through the open door and into the hallway. The camera turned slightly sideways and showed his profile.

It was Park Moondae.

Then, the sound of a cool drum rang out.

Tang Tang! Drdrdrdrdr!

On top of that, the sound of the band and the violin filled her ears.

It was a classic instrument and a sound that would have been popular only in the early 2000s, but thanks to the modern arrangement of the beats and detailed elements taken with a synthesizer, it only had a retro sensibility without the tacky feeling.

Meanwhile, the boy, who had arrived at the door at the end of the corridor, suddenly opened the door.

Clang!

Beyond the open door was a dorm room.

Each of the boys playing looked back at the camera with their eyes wide open.

[…?]

And the video was completely transformed into a teen movie.

Testar took classes at a small rural school and enjoyed everyday life.

Every time the school area where they stayed changed, a choreography scene cut in. As if the students had cleaned it up themselves, even the

desk that was slightly clumsily pushed to the corner saved the atmosphere.

'Oh, my God.'

The graduate student already had the music video, which was mixed with youth and nostalgia, poured into her heart but this was not the end.

It was because new scenes began to mix in as they entered the second verse.

Testar began to experience minor abnormalities as they encountered specific situations and props at the school and in the forest.

For example, when Seon Ahyeon turned on the water near the playground, sparkling bubbles poured out instead of water.

"Wow…"

She admired reflexively.

It was really great to see the sparkling bulbs hovering around Seon Ahyeon in the wind…

After that, the scene showed most of the members first encountered the abilities they had shown in 'Magical Boy' without being too obvious.

'What about Moondae?'

As she was worrying whether he would be skipped in the opening scene, Moondae's ability appeared on the screen.

The moment Moondae grabbed the doorknob as he was about to follow his friends out of the music room after class, the illusion of a mysterious pattern engraved on it flickered.

And the door was locked.

‘Gasp.’

As the grad student swallowed her scream, the music video reached its climax.

The seven boys planned to use their abilities to sneak out of school during the curfew to play.

So, in the middle of a starry night.

A playful escape began.

When Keun Sejin closed his eyes and confirmed that the situation in the hallway outside was okay, Cha Eugene turned a clockwork decorated with a small bear into a human size and covered it with a blanket.

Kim Raebin carefully opened the window with a compass, made a pretty round hole in the window, and looked at his friends with an ambiguous face

.

Anyway, after many twists and turns, the boys eventually succeed in sneaking out of the school building.

The last chorus came out.

– Will you let go without holding me?

pleasure

Even regret

when it fills up again

I'll make it again

towards you Airplane

– Airplane

A drop was added along with a modern electronic instrument, and a group dance set in a starry field as its background appeared.

And the moment the fancy choreography stopped.

The members stopped dancing and started running in the field. The storyline began to flow naturally with one uninterrupted one-take.

[Hahaha!!]

When the boys' laughter was inserted over the accompaniment, the drum faded out.

The bridge was changed to finish the song softly.

– Far away Fly high

My heart is flying

Beyond the Milky Way

I hope you become a shining star

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and fired a toy gun into the sky.

With a cheerful sound, the bullets exploded like firecrackers and embroidered the night sky.

– Put your hands together, Pray again

Closer to you

Beyond our line

I want my hands to touch

The boys ran out into the field laughing.

The camera captured the view of their backs for quite a long time.

'Ah… It was good.'

She relaxed and tapped the keyboard softly. It was so good, but she had no stamina.

However, the video wasn't over yet.

The moment the music ended, the screen suddenly turned black.

"…?"

Black screen… It was in the middle of the night by the classroom window. However, outside the window, it was a pitch-black night view without stars, creating a tremendous sense of dissonance.

And instead, suddenly, a light flashed through the curtains.

"…!"

The glow-in-the-dark graffiti that she saw at the beginning of the video was filling up the curtains.

Thanks to that bleak light, she could see a figure lying face down by the window.

It was a familiar composition for Testar's fans.

'…Magical Boy teaser!'

The composition was the same.

…But this time, nothing magical happened.

[…]

The video ended like that.

"…Phew!"

The graduate student let out a long sigh.

'The last part is… No, more importantly… It's so good…!'

The song, the choreography, and even the outfit were all good!

However, due to physical problems, the detailed appreciation wasn't completed in her head, and only the impressions floated around.

'At times like this, you have to look at other people's appreciation…!'

Then she would be able to relate without using her head. Excitedly, she lowered the screen to the comment window.

"…"

And seeing the screen full of English, she stiffened.

It was because of WeTube's policy to reveal English comments at the top.

There was only one Korean comment revealed at the top.

– Looking for Koreans. Testar, I love you! (laughing and crying emoticon)

“…”

The graduate student decided to create an SNS account.

CHAPTER 107

A few days had passed since the song was released last Monday. This meant that the schedule for the first stage was just around the corner.

However, perhaps because the company was conscious of the debut showcase accident, I heard that the company wouldn't hold a showcase for this comeback.

But we got new content.

"I never thought we'd have a separate comeback show."

"I'm really excited!"

Cha Eugene finished Ryu Chungwoo's slightly burdensome words and completely changed the line.

In any case, it was just like he said. Testar received a solo comeback show next Thursday at Music Night.

In addition to the performance of the last album, it seemed the fact that we were from Tnet also had some influence.

'We debuted with <Idol Inc.> so we're like a royal.'

Anyway, the VCR filming was already over.

"Isn't it nice that we don't have to sing 'Just Me' since we already have a couple of songs? It feels like we've established ourselves as a group. Haha!"

Keun Sejin seemed to be in a good mood. Perhaps this comeback show was one of the step-by-step goals he had set.

'That's great.'

I shrugged and continued what I was doing. I was going to check it out a while ago, but I couldn't because I didn't have time.

"A-Are you going to look at the album?"

"Yeah."

I was going to check the actual album.

I received one separately from the company, but I just pre-ordered this.

Because the last album was prepared in such a hurry, we confirmed that there were quite a few cases where the actual album was not finished or the printing on the inside was poor.

'Hopefully, it won't happen again this time.'

There was nothing I could do if such cases got away from me due to a lucky draw, but I still wanted to order it myself and take a look.

"Oh, Moondae, are you unboxing the album? Do you want me to film a video for you?"

"No, it's fine."

I turned down Keun Sejin's offer and tore off the bubble wrap.

A huge album composition set box was revealed before my eyes.

"Wow…"

"…Can you call this an album?"

Bae Sejin murmured. Ah, by the way, he had completely got rid of his ankle brace last week.

Anyway, just like he said, this box was the size of a drawer.

And there was a reason why it had to be.

"Ah, is this the set that includes the lightstick?"

"That's right."

It was because the lightstick was finally released and they were booked together.

'Then let's check the actual lightstick first.'

I opened the box. And I was taken aback.

"…!"

On the left, the lightstick between the buffer material… It was much more colorful than I thought.

In particular, the huge cubic glowing with the aurora light in the center was overwhelming.

'It's more colorful than the final picture…?'

I could feel the madness of the office workers who wanted to put in everything they had.

The other guys watching from the side also seemed a little taken aback.

"Oh… Oh~"

“I-It’s very… big.”

“It’s sparkling!”

Cha Eugene’s vocabulary had improved.

“Ah, that thing next to the lightstick, do you put it on top of the lightstick?”

“Maybe.”

I took out the black cylinder placed next to the lightstick.

Ah, the baseball bat shape was rejected because it was difficult to attach and detach it due to the time and the cost.

‘This is actually more than I expected.’

I tried changing the shape of the lightstick by putting the cylinder on top of it, and after confirming that it was placed stably, I took it out again.

‘Now, the album.’

On the right side of the box, there were two albums that were almost as thick as a hard-cover book.

“…It’s really big.”

“I think it’s because the photos take up a big part of the composition.”

“You can use that as a weapon.”

I checked it properly by looking into the two albums in order.

One side had a summer watercolor landscape on a white background, while the other featured luminous graffiti on a black background. However, thanks to having the same basic design, the sense of unity was alive.

Fortunately, both of them had a clean finish and the print quality looked good.

“Oh, the photocards are falling~”

“…! I-I got them…!”

For reference, the photocards were Seon Ahyeon’s selfie in a classroom and Ryu Chungwoo taking off his gas mask respectively. I gave them the cards and finished checking the album.

“Hey, Ahyeon is really handsome. How can you be so handsome when you’re bad at taking selfies?”

“T-Tthank you…?”

He got S- stat recently, so it was understandable.

After this, it was time to prepare for the pre-recording of the comeback show.

“Since we’re not just doing one song, let’s properly distribute our stamina.”

“Yes!”

After a few confirmations, we went out on stage to record our first song.

And I checked the actual long-distance of 500 lightsticks.

“Waaaaaagh!!”

“…!”

I expected it, but… No, it was more than I expected… It boasted a tremendous brightness.

Each person seemed to be holding a mirror ball.

‘…Doesn’t it get in the way of watching the stage?’

Having a light source that close would bother me.

It looked fantastic on stage, but wouldn’t be useless if the people holding it were uncomfortable?

I raised my mic after the members exchanged a few greetings with the fans.

“…About the light stick…”

“It’s pretty!”

“I love it!”

“…All right.”

As long as you’re satisfied.

* * *

The morning after Testar filmed the comeback show with fans all day long. Of course, reviews were posted.

Among them, Park Moondae’s anonymous fan community was also there.

==========

[Comeback show pre-recording review]

: Gommeo, that crazy guy has platinum blonde hair, f*ck, this kid needs to keep blonde hair forever.

The stage was good, I am not telling you how it was. Watch the broadcast~

==========

– Gasp

– Blonde again?

– Blonde hair! (Park Moondae doing puppy landing GIF)

– No, my baby's scalp is going to melt. Just go with black hair… Isn't black hair better for the song concept?

└Hn, no, Park Gommeo only has blond hair

– How many songs?

– Is this fake?

└Similar posts continue to appear on other sites

– Gommeo seems to know something ㅋㅋ But don't come in here when you search. If you're watching, press back and never return

└This is called excessive self-consciousness

– The pre-recording was held on weekdays, so even these guys were going

The first comeback stage hadn't been aired yet, so even if they looked at the reviews written in detail, the only thing fans could intuitively feel after reading the pre-recorded reviews was the description of the change in appearance.

And since the first comeback stage was scheduled to be aired on Thursday evening, the pre-recording of the Music Night was held early at dawn.

Naturally, the early morning in mid-to-late October was quite cold.

"Don't push!"

'...It's cold!'

Kim Raebin's fan grumbled and entered the pre-recording site. The article she checked earlier still lingered in her head.

'...Park Moondae dyed his hair blonde again?'

Good... No, it was only because Park Moondae looked better with blonder hair.

After the 2nd team match, she secretly became concerned about Park Moondae, and sometimes went to Park Moondae's fan site to check the news.

Even when her acquaintance on SNS, a personal fan of Kim Raebin, criticized Park Moondae, she was secretly rooting for him.

– Did you see Gommeo paying attention to Rebin? Selling stories to the elders and winning first place. There are no young people here ㅋ

└Still, Gommeo is good for him. With Big Bird-ssi, Rebin only gets political

…It was mostly like this. By the way, Big Bird was a nickname that had been changed to the extreme to prevent Keun Sejin's search.

Nevertheless, she was still in denial of having feelings beyond a favorable impression toward Park Moondae.

'…Let's just watch the performance!'

She quickly shook off her thoughts and pulled out her lightstick. The composition of getting a Shara-La magic wand when you removed the black cylinder was honestly funny.

'The lightstick is nice.'

As the fans waited with their lightsticks, Testar walked out from across the stage.

"Hello!"

"Hello, Loviewer!"

Deafening cheers rang through the recording studio.

"Are you tired? Thank you so much for coming."

"Yeah!"

"No, I'm not tired!"

It was a mess, with people's reactions ranging from honest to kind, but the atmosphere itself was fun, so everyone laughed.

Testar showed signs of nervousness, but they spoke well in general…

Above all, the outfits were really amazing.

‘What’s with that…!’

In their winter school uniform, Testar was wearing techwear props instead of jackets.

The silhouette of the accessory made of black leather, plastic, and metal went up over the student uniform and pants, and it fit just right.

‘I thought the atmosphere would be different from the title track… I knew it!’

But it was still shocking because she didn’t know it would be more serious than the concept photo.

In addition, Kim Raebin had grown his hair a little longer, leaving only half of his forehead exposed.

‘Half bang!’

She really liked the fact that he was moving into a dangerous impression rather than being a bad boy!

She wanted to express this excitement by hitting something with her lightstick, but she endured it because there were too many people.

And at that moment, Park Moondae, who was standing a little away from Kim Raebin, caught her eye.

“…!!”

So handsome?!

Why are you so handsome? She looked at Park Moondae, doubting her own eyes.

Although Park Moondae was trendy, attractive, and objectively handsome… He wasn't a handsome man that made her admire him the instant she saw him.

But for some reason, he looked like that today!

'Is it because of that platinum blonde hair?!'

Park Moondae had platinum blonde hair that looked almost colorless.

And she didn't know why, but it seemed to suit him so well.

'…Did you get plastic surgery?'

She suspected briefly, but couldn't pinpoint the difference in features.

Then she heard someone whispering to each other quietly next to her.

"I heard they changed the salon…"

"They must have changed it to a better one. The kids seem to have gotten more handsome."

"…"

'Ah, that's what happened.'

She was quickly convinced of the situation.

She didn't know who it was, but it was clear that they were a great expert.

In the meantime, Testar finished the short greetings and the small talk with fans, and they lined up to prepare for the stage.

As Testar turned around and each took a starting position, she waved the lightstick in her hand in excitement. And she realized.

'Ah, the lightstick's cover… '

Come to think of it, when she came in, she was told not to take off this black cylinder.

'Are you telling me to cheer for them like this?'

As she looked at the black stick with hesitation, the lightstick was switched on by a central controller connected via Bluetooth.

Then a familiar luminous graffiti wrapped itself around the cylindrical shape as it activated.

"…!"

It felt like the light inside was leaking through, but for some reason, it reminded her of a neon sign.

"Heol."

She wasn't interested in this cylinder and didn't know anything about it, so she was taken by surprise.

However, most of the fans were just staring at the stage, perhaps they had already turned it on at home.

'Ah!'

She quickly fixed her eyes on the stage, too. She couldn't waste her time on this.

At that moment, the lights in the studio went out.

And an intense prelude began to play out on the stage.

CHAPTER 108

The stage was still dark.

On the stage without lights, a subtle and heavy bass sound resounded as if a dull machine was moving.

DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON

Most of the fans had already listened to it while streaming, but the power when listening to it live was different.

Tension was created at a faster tempo than expected.

And on top of that, an electric sound was plugged in.

Dvvvviiiii-!

It was the thunderous riff melody that appeared in the trailer.

As if surprised by thunder, the lights came on the stage like lightning.

A stage set resembling a back alley in a sci-fi game was revealed under the pale lighting that didn't have any shade of color yellow. However, school props such as desks and blackboards were placed here and there and looked as though they were being thrown away.

Testar turned back and looked in different directions.

Cha Eugene slowly turned his head and faced forward.

– *Do not trust it*

There no justice

Oooohh—.

The moment the low-pitched rap was over, the slashing riff melody disappeared.

And on the spot, a moombahton unfolded.

The early first dance break entered a thrilling level that was full of rhythm but not exciting.

It was a group dance centered on Cha Eugene, with a slightly mechanical feel.

And the moment Cha Eugene disappeared behind the formation, the song began.

– Looking back, I can't tell

Umm

What happened.

– Target Target Target

GOT IT

As you run, as you grab

It was a completely different vocal melody from the song in the trailer.

She didn't know, but this b-side track, 'Better Me', seemed to have only sampled the accompaniment from the song in the trailer.

However, this was a trendy dance song that seemed much more befitting of an idol.

Thanks to this, Testar on the stage was almost flying.

It was a composition that made her wonder if there was room to breathe.

– This clear feeling.

(It won't be erased, it won't be forgotten)

I know even now.

(I got that CODE)

The moment they entered the pre-chorus, the voices of Kim Raebin and Keun Sejin intertwined and spread.

The two parted ways after showing a violent pair of dance moves that seemed to capture each other.

And at the second part of the pre-chorus.

Park Moondae came out, and suddenly, the electric sound of the trailer returned.

And lyrics similar to the trailer came out.

– I will never die

Like I did before

I'm gonna keep ME

Alive-!

The high notes rose flawlessly.

The trailer and vocal melody were completely different, but the level of difficulty was indisputable.

And Park Moondae sang this high note with a dynamic choreography that came out by intertwining with other members.

In a slightly gloomy mood at that.

'Wow… '

Kim Raebin's fan forgot to cheer and admired it as if she was watching a competition program, but soon she came back to her senses and focused on the stage.

Finally, Kim Raebin come out in the chorus!

Kim Raebin sang the chorus in a slightly melancholy mood with glaring eyes.

– BUT.

It's just confusing

Since when

I'm just confused

Umm

How far you're going

The chorus returned to moombahton and was tightly woven with low-pitched vocals and bright beats.

Then Ryu Chungwoo came out and took over the next chorus.

– Could be confusing

What do you want

May be confused

Umm

How do I do this

The lyrics and atmosphere seemed to wander, but it was somehow meaningful and abstract.

Thanks to the combination of the stage, choreography, and costumes, the stage looked as though they were wandering in a dystopian worldview, not reality.

Thanks to this, neon signs and devices that could be distracting, on the contrary, saved the slightly melancholy taste at the center of the intense song.

– Take me and get that might

As soon as the melodious chorus ended, the choreography for the second verse with Cha Eugene's sharp rapping became more intense and complex.

– This distant feeling

(Erasing and forgetting)

But I know

(I got that CODE)

Elements continued to be added to the accompaniment and the beat became more intense as if it were climbing endlessly until it was about to burst.

And the moment the chorus burst through the bridge.

Instead of the song being dropped, the accompaniments were all removed. And only that intense riff melody came back alone.

Dvvvviiiiii~!

And in the absence of the beat, the last chorus broke out, competing only with the riff melody.

– BUT.

It's NOT confusing!

Who am I

I'm NOT confused

Oh!

To find BETTER ME

Park Moondae, who received the note from Ryu Chungwoo, captured the note by playing it up to a super high pitch.

It was so loud that the AR could not be heard properly.

'Heol!'

The audience cheered internally.

When she listened to the song, both the riff melody and the voice were bright, so she got tired after listening to it a few times, but it was incredibly dramatic on stage.

In addition, the moombahton, which started again shortly after, stuck to her ears.

– *BETTER ME*

With a big smile, Keun Sejin jumped out to the center at the last dance break.

And the accompaniment of the first dance break was changed.

As if a conflict had been resolved, a lighter and more upbeat atmosphere continued.

However, the choreography was more impressive in terms of difficulty and attraction because the number of foot movements increased and became extravagant.

– *BETTER ME*

It wasn't until the end of the song that the song ended by singing the title that popped out as a variation hook once again.

And the internal shouts immediately burst out.

"Waaaaaaaa!!!"

"Aaahh!!"

"Oh my gosh!!"

The b-side track stage, which seemed to be shouted out for its performance by everyone, had a great composition that made it fun to

watch and listen to.

Even better, they would be recording it repeatedly, so the audience would be able to watch this stage several more times!

Testar stumbled and gasped for breath because of the song composition that had no structure to rest, then waved their hands in gratitude.

Perhaps it was too hot, a few members secretly picked up the techware props and fanned themselves.

Then, a moment later, Ryu Chungwoo talked to the staff.

“Huft… hu, next take… Yes? Like this?”

Testar’s expression brightened.

“Wow, they said we did it in one go!”

The sentence was like a lightning bolt.

‘No!!!’

Even the rehearsals were already completed due to equipment maintenance, so the only thing fans could see was that stage!

But, of course, there was no turnaround. Testar belatedly figured out the situation and made a vain attempt.

“Director, don’t you think we made a mistake with the vocal?”

“I didn’t see the camera!”

But that didn’t work either. Thanks to this, they showed aegyo or danced apologetically and disappeared.

"…"

Thus, the fans came out of the recording studio 20 minutes after entering.

All they had in their hands was cream bread and Americano from a restaurant that Testar had prepared.

'…Kim Raebin!! Park Moondae!! Who told you to be so good!!'

Not knowing what she was thinking, Kim Raebin's fan tore off the cream bread.

That it was delicious made her even more pissed off.

* * *

That evening, all of Testar's b-side and title track performances were finally broadcasted for the first time.

Perhaps because the director was gone and there were a lot of recent incidents, the company gave us time to sleep during the activity.

Thanks to this, I was able to see the reactions to the first stage at the dorm at midnight on the same day.

Of course, there were a lot of views for the title track on WeTube and others, but when I entered SNS or community, the response to the b-sides was almost equal.

I clicked on a post with over 500 comments.

==========

[Testar's new b-side]

: (Link to SNS video)

I just came out from ‘Music Night’, and to be honest, the response to this stage seemed better than to the title track

==========

– This is really for performance.

– It’s difficult

– They’re good at it;

– The title track is much better, but I think I know why they chose this as a b-side. It’s much better when you see it on stage ㅋㅋ

– Is this live?

└ㅇㅇ It’s totally live.

– It’s almost like lip sync ㅋㅋㅋ Park Moondae’s AR part is so obvious. He did that during Idol Inc

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ (MR removal image link)

– The stage is really good, but what the hell are the lyrics?

└We don’t know either, but Kim Raebin wrote the lyrics. In a little while, he’s going to come to W live and talk about it. Please come and see it when you have time.

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ Please post a summary

In general, there were a lot of good comments. Occasionally, there were people trying to throw aggro but those were the guys that always popped up every day.

Of course, among those comments, I also found the talk that I had expected.

– Wow, Park Moondae is on a roll whenever he has blonde hair ㅋㅋㅋ

– Is that really Park Moondae with platinum-blonde hair? Heol, Park Moondae in my head is his image from Idol Inc. What the hell happened?

– Moondae is really handsome

– No, Park Moondae's hair looks really perfect as if it will grow blonde. What's going on?

– I couldn't watch Idol Inc because of the exam, but is platinum blonde hair the first-place winner? Since he sang with that face, I thought he must have won first place.;;

└This is the guy who poured the broadcast material into his mouth with a water purifier. Don't be fooled.

It was mostly like this.

'It was worth it.'

Of course, doubtful reactions also popped up, but they didn't develop further there.

It was because I was a player that had laid the groundwork.

– Hmm ㅋㅋ Change in appearance… I have a lot to say but I won't say it

└I heard they changed the salon

└How do you know that?

└Behind the scenes of the comeback dub live, there is a scene where they do their hair

└Aha ㅇㅋ

– If your face changes because you change the salon, I will go to that salon too.

└Surprisingly, this is a common occurrence for idols who wear stage makeup…

└ㅋ Who said that?

└I know because the idols whose data I had sold were ruined after changing salons

└Sorry;

Hmm, as expected, it was a good excuse so I rubbed it in moderation.

'It was fortunate that the company was about to change the salon.'

Thanks to that, I was able to raise my visual to A- without difficulty.

And the reason why I took care of my visual… This was because Ryu Chungwoo, who was recently B+, went up to A-.

…He had a hard time during Idol Inc, and it seemed the aftermath of that had disappeared. I could see that his look had improved.

Anyway, if this continued, I thought I would be left alone as B stat and I would be caught in comparison screenshots, so I made an investment now.

'It was a good choice.'

Ah, and I took the other one for vocal and made it an A+.

As I kept practicing the last chorus of that b-side, I had a strong feeling that I would lose my voice someday, so I couldn't help it.

'It's a bit unfortunate.'

Actually, I thought I could raise my vocal naturally if I waited a little longer. However, I couldn't help it because the comeback was right around the corner.

'I'll save the remaining points as planned.'

I shrugged and turned off my phone. I had to sleep right away because my schedule tomorrow started almost very early in the morning.

'Let's take a closer look at the reaction to the title track tomorrow.'

And the next day, while waiting for the music show and looking at the response to the title track, I heard strange news.

"You guys will shoot a variety show next week~"

"Oh~"

"Where?"

"I don't like birds."

In the midst of bitter reactions from the guys who couldn't escape the afterimage of <Man who only needs to say it once>, the manager raised his thumb.

"It's an entertainment show where you ride a horse and shoot an arrow!!"

“…!”

At that moment, everyone’s eyes turned to Ryu Chungwoo.

CHAPTER 109

Ryu Chungwoo asked with an ambiguous face.

“…We’re going to shoot… riding a horse and holding a bow…?”

“Alright!”

“Wow!”

“I like it!”

“…Perhaps, did we get cast because of Chungwoo?”

At Bae Sejin’s question, the manager shook his head.

“No, Well, it’s… It’s similar to the previous Idol Olympics which was made by KBC, so the format is like that. I think most idols will come out.”

“Aha~”

It meant that if we didn’t show up, it would be an obstacle in appearing on music shows. Got it.

“Huh, but the holidays are over, we’re doing this now?”

“Well, there must have been an internal situation at the broadcasting station.”

“Hmm~”

Most of the members were convinced, but Ryu Chungwoo still had a mysterious expression.

“Hyung, is there a problem?”

“Hn? Um… I’m a little worried.”

Ah, is it because of the aftereffects?

Even if he didn’t feel any pain, the situation itself might be uncomfortable. There was always a risk of injury in entertainment shows where people like this were called in and forced to do physical work.

However, this time, the manager opened his mouth with an ambiguous face.

“Um… About that.”

“…?”

“Chungwoo… is banned.”

“…!!”

“The broadcast refused because the game wouldn’t work with him there. Instead, they want him to show a demonstration.”

“Ugh.”

The members were shocked by the incredible judgment that made sense. It was clear that they secretly put their trust in him.

However, Ryu Chungwoo’s expression didn’t improve.

“I think I’d rather do it… Hyung, we can’t go out like this, right?”

"…Mm, it must be hard to keep appearing on KBC. Why?"

Ryu Chungwoo shook his head.

"It's too dangerous. Riding a horse is difficult, but shooting a bow from it is even more dangerous. How long has the training period been secured?"

"…They said you'll come and learn…"

"…"

"…Wait a minute."

After getting us in the car, the manager seemed to have a pretty long phone call with the company in the parking lot.

Then he got back in the car with a bright face.

"Oh, don't worry, guys. They said everything is already prepared."

"Oh…"

"Still, KBC is a public broadcaster. They won't make you do anything unreasonable or dangerous, so let's do it!"

Seeing him rant like that, he must have heard something. Since he didn't explain in detail, it seemed he needed a reaction.

'Did they call the national horseback riding team?'

There was no way they would wrap up the show with warm scenes by bringing in the current national team in front of an idol who retired from the national team due to the aftereffects, right?

I'd met so many of the great broadcasters on Tnet that I had to value it from my side and measure the angle.

"And I heard that they're going to do various other sports, so I think Cheongwoo can play there!"

"Um, I understand…"

Ryu Chungwoo still looked uncomfortable, but he eventually agreed.

And on the day of filming, we got to see a tremendous sight.

* * *

The filming location was at Daegwallyeong.

What was even more interesting was that I went there wearing an outfit I had never imagined before.

"Hwarang[1]Hwarang, also known as Hwarang Corps, and Flowering Knights, were an elite warrior group of male youth in Silla, an ancient kingdom of the Korean Peninsula that lasted until the 10th century. Sumber: Wiki. ?"

"Yes. The concept of this program is Silla Hwarang competing with each other!"

"Wow…"

I didn't know that they even mobilized their ancestors to differentiate themselves from Idol Olympics.

Thanks to this, I was taken to Daegwallyeong in a Hwarang outfit after getting my makeup and hair done in Seoul.

– Don’t lean on your hair too hard because it can get ruined!

I thought my neck was going to break.

And in the filming location we arrived at.

A pink merry-go-round was spinning.

“…??”

“Excuse me?”

“It’s your horses!”

“…!!”

The camera eagerly captured the blank faces of the member.

And after a while, bows were supplied.

They were colorful toy bows.

Our figure holding the bow in this historical drama costume was the pinnacle of disparity

“…”

“…Isn’t our ancestors going to get angry with this?”

Yeah.

Anyway, thanks to that, the filming went safely as promised by KBC.

Idols dressed up in Hwarang outfits riding on a bling-bling merry-go-round and hitting animal character dolls with toy bows was a very strange triple-complex gag.

‘Why the hell did you have to call us to Daegwallyeong?’

It wouldn’t make a difference if we just went to any theme park.

Watching the scene, Keun Sejin laughed and stretched.

“Still, there’s no fans calling us out here. I heard they have a hard time.”

“Aah.”

I remembered. I’d never been to the filming because it didn’t fit my schedule, but there were quite a few people who took pictures and sold them.

“Moondaemoondae, let’s save some pictures to upload news for the Loviewers.”

“Shall we?”

Hmm. It was a pretty good suggestion.

“Oh~ Aren’t you enthusiastic? To be honest, Moondae also likes the Hwarang’s outfit~you think it’s cool, right? Isn’t it like that?”

This was kind of annoying.

“M-Me too…”

“Are you taking pictures?”

“I want to see the hair!”

As I was taking a few group shots including the guys who had interrupted, I could feel gazes from around me. It was from the other idol teams.

‘It’s the same as in the hallway of the music shows.’

It would be good to build a more personal friendship here since everyone was on standby. There were no fan seats, too.

However, these guys didn’t seem interested in other groups.

Even Keun Sejin. It seemed none of the idols who participated here had a similar level to Testar, so I guessed they just made sure they kept their hands clean. They greeted the others politely, and after that, they didn’t even look back.

‘How should I say this, they’re real bastards.’

I was in no position to talk, but… These bastards were really huge jerks.

Well, thanks to that, it was comfortable not having to talk to anyone.

After such a peaceful waiting time.

“This group~ It’s the famous National Stock! Here is Testar’s Hwarang!”

I wondered if it was okay to use other cable’s extreme capitalist catchphrase on public broadcasting, but in any case, we got called for our turn.

Ryu Chungwoo, who was excluded to make it fair, and Bae Sejin, who voluntarily dropped out of the five-member quota, remained on standby. They would participate in the next event.

“Good luck. Be careful.”

“…Yes.”

Looking at the merry-go-round, I wondered if there was a need to be told to be careful, but my doubts disappeared after being hit by Ryu

Chungwoo's backstory beam.

"Let's go~"

And I got on the merry-go-round.

The merry-go-round began to spin after the explanation to wear the seat belt and give a signal to stop the merry-go-round if a problem occurred

– Ddara ddda climb~ Ddara ddda~

A cute music box rang out and the merry-go-round began to turn up and down. I felt a sense of shame.

And one more rule was added here.

"Then, everyone, Testar's Hwarang~ What should you do before shooting an arrow?"

"Quiz!"

"We have to guess the answer!"

Right. We couldn't shoot indefinitely, we had to guess it correctly and then we could shoot for 10 seconds.

So, the group that got five questions right in the shortest time won the game.

"That's right, as Hwarang group with all the martial arts, you have to guess the correct answer, the target, and even the timing~"

"You don't have to guess the timing, you have to guess…"

"Hahaha! Give us the question!"

At Keun Sejin's words, the entertainer who was in charge of being the MC immediately raised his hand and shouted.

"Now, the first question, guess this person! He is one of the most famous Hwarangs, and he is the general who led the unification of the three kingdoms of Silla. What is the name of this general who defeated the army led by Gyebaek in the Battle of Hwangsanbeol?"

"…??"

What's with the difficulty level?

It wasn't particularly difficult, but the previous group was only asked to say the name of the place where we were now.

'Are you trying to mess with us because we're from a cable program…?'

KBC wasn't an idiot, so it probably wasn't like that. It was just a matter of luck.

In the midst of this, Cha Eugene was the first to raise his hand, turning this into a problem.

"What kind of bee is Hwangsanbeol[2]beol means bee, that's why Cha Eugene got confused…"

"Answer! General Kim Yushin!"

"Oh, Hwarang Park Moondae~ Correct!"

Fortunately, I could get rid of the audio 'Hwangsanbee'.

'I survived.'

I sighed and lifted my bow.

“Okay, 10 seconds from now! Start!”

“Huh??”

And like a joke, the merry-go-round sped up. The wooden horse, which had been moving like a turtle, suddenly started running like a group cyclist at the gym.

I had seen it while waiting earlier, but they really tried hard to be funny.

“This is faster than I thought?!”

“Hahaha! Come on~ One!”

And like a lie, Cha Eugene hit a doll right away.

“One!”

I sighed and aimed my toy bow.

And of course, I didn’t hit it. Damn it.

“Ah, it was fun!”

“It was nice!”

Keun Sejin and Cha Eugene smiled and came down from the merry-go-round and waved to the camera.

Surprisingly, they finished in 2 minutes and 7 seconds, setting a new record.

What was even more surprising was that Cha Eugene answered the second question correctly.

– Then, the second question~ WWW, which is commonly seen in the address bar is…

– World Wide Web!!

-…? That's correct!

It was an unexpected save.

By the way, this time I also managed to hit a doll. Getting the hang of it was important.

"Good job. It seems you're doing well?"

"Good job~"

"There were no major difficulties!"

"Let's do it again~"

Next to the guys who were taking control, Bae Sejin asked quietly in front of the chrysalis.

"…Did you have fun?"

I shrugged. It meant it was fun. Bae Sejin understood without words.

"T-This time, we did a good job."

"I know. Let's continue to do well~"

"Yeah~"

After doing it once, everyone was excited as if they were immersed in it. In this gap, I had a foreboding feeling that if I did it alone, I would be engulfed in a subtle controversy despite my initial intention.

‘Let’s pay attention to the reaction.’

By the way, Ryu Chungwoo, who came out next as a demonstration, burst into laughter and showed a crazy trick of hitting all five dolls alone within the first 10 seconds.

I had no idea what kind of place the Korean national archery team was.

* * *

And as time passed, from sheep shearing–which I couldn’t guess why it was even included–to a large yut nori[3]**Yut Nori**, also known as Yunnori, Nyout, and Yoot, is a traditional board game played in Korea. Sumber: Wiki game, we finally arrived at the last event.

“Next~ It’s a coloring battle!”

“Oh~”

It sounded plausible, but it was just a paintball survival game. The team who shot paint at each other and survived without getting hit until the end won.

This time, it was a 7-member team match, so Ryu Chungwoo and Bae Sejin were included. Since luck played a big role, this time Ryu Chungwoo didn’t miss out as a demonstration.

‘It’s comfortable to be away.’

Looking at other teams, there were quite a few places where they were mixed.

“Is this going to be a picture where if we stay still, Chungwoo hyung will shoot everything and win~?”

“I will shoot, too!”

“…I look forward to your kind cooperation.”

Perhaps not confident, Bae Sejin said to Ryu Chungwoo with a grim face.

Ryu Chungwoo said awkwardly with an embarrassed face.

“Let’s just have fun, guys, you might get eliminated.”

“That’s weak!”

“I want to win!”

“F-Fighting!”

Even Seon Ahyeon stepped forward like this, so Ryu Chungwoo was eventually pushed back.

“Haha, alright. Let’s win!”

“Wow!”

The camera eagerly captured the scene.

‘Hmm, it won’t be a very good picture if we really win like this.’

Since Testar performed the best among the groups that appeared here, it might be better to avoid winning in this event.

‘We’ve already finished second in yut nori.’

If we went further from here, it was clear that there would be people who thought that we were taking away other groups’ opportunity to receive the portions.

However, if we did it half-heartedly, we would get criticized for doing it half-heartedly, so it would be best to get immersed like crazy and fail.

So I nodded my head and shook my fists as if impressed by Ryu Chungwoo's words.

'Let's roll.'

Don't give any real help, just pretend to work hard.

If I wore this outfit and rolled around on the ground, they would have no choice but to say that I had worked hard.

And five minutes later, with this decision, I really rolled on the ground.

"Moondae, are you okay?!"

"…Yes."

It was because everyone was eliminated and only Ryu Chungwoo and I were left.

This situation happened thanks to the five guys who were immersed in shooting the paint and didn't care that they didn't shoot it right.

All of a sudden, I became the person who held out until the end.

And when an arrow came, Ryu Chungwoo rolled hard to the left and rolled to the right, giving instructions in order to save the one remaining member of the team

I myself was rolling, so I ended up not getting hit.

'Wow… '

Let's get eliminated.

However, Ryu Chungwoo was more immersed than I expected.

- 1. Hwarang, also known as Hwarang Corps, and Flowering Knights, were an elite warrior group of male youth in Silla, an ancient kingdom of the Korean Peninsula that lasted until the 10th century. Sumber: Wiki.

- 2. beol means bee, that's why Cha Eugene got confused

- 3.**Yut Nori**, also known as Yunnori, Nyout, and Yoot, is a traditional board game played in Korea. Sumber: Wiki

CHAPTER 110

“It’s coming from the right. Let’s crawl and move.”

“…”

No… Do I have to do this?

However, Ryu Chungwoo had already begun to crawl with a serious face.

‘Crawling on the ground wearing a wig and a Hwarang costume… ’

It was a terrible combination.

In the meantime, an arrow flew overhead and hit the wooden fence.

Thud!

The wooden planks were smeared with blue color.

Then with his sharp eyes, Ryu Chungwoo pointed his bow at the spot where the arrow flew from.

Of course, his bow was a toy bow for children.

Whoosh.

“Uaagh!”

“Out~!”

“Ugh, what a waste!”

Wearing scarlet headbands, the team’s two finalists came out from behind a wooden fence with their shoulders covered in yellow.

They were the guys who shot with their heads moving up and down from the end of the fence.

‘…You shot one and hit two.’

This was at the level of destroying the ecosystem. It was like on the same team with a diamond on a bronze alt account slaughtering the civilians.

“There are three teams left. Hit from the left.”

Stop it.

“…Hyung, why don’t we wait until the number of people shrinks down?”

“Ah.”

Ryu Chungwoo finally realized that he had crossed the line and became a little embarrassed. He was like an adult who came to his senses after having a fierce snowball fight with children.

“That’s right… Let’s wait back there.”

“Yes.”

“Hmm, it’s been a while since I’ve done something like this, it’s so fun.”

Ryu Chungwoo’s face slightly cooled down.

It seemed he was the type who relieved stress by winning in such primitive competitive content.

'It's not RoR[1] it's literally RoR, as in the English alphabet. When I looked it up, it's ***Return on revenue*** *(ROR), which means a measure of company profitability based on the amount of revenue generated, but it doesn't really fit the context, is it? It's probably a gaming term but I have no clue what it could be. , is it?'*

It would be perfect for this guy since he wouldn't get cursed at.

Anyway, at Ryu Chungwoo's suggestion, I crawled behind the largest wooden fence nearby.

But before I arrived there, the arrows started flying again. They were the guys with green belts on their heads.

'Has that side already gotten cleaned up?'

There were four people left.

'I guess I'll just have to get hit and get eliminated now.'

Even if Ryu Chungwoo eliminated two more, the other side could win and finish it just fine.

But things didn't go as expected.

"Dangerous…!"

"Heol!"

"It's over?"

"Uoooh!"

Ryu Chungwoo really did eliminate two more people.

However, right after that, he ended up getting hit with paint and got eliminated, and in that way, the remaining one from the other team was eliminated together.

So, all of a sudden, a one-on-one match occurred with only one green-belt guy and me left.

"…"

"…"

Is this for real?

The problem was that the other side also knew that they had to eliminate Ryu Chungwoo, so they focused intensively on Ryu Chungwoo, and Ryu Chungwoo also shot those who seemed most likely to hit him.

In other words, both the surviving men were the weakest.

The other guy must have been taken aback as well, and his arrow missed as he repeatedly shouted, 'Uh, huh?'

"…Huh."

All of a sudden, it became a s*ht fight.

At that moment, Ryu Chungwoo, whose throat was covered in paint, quickly shouted.

"Moondae, use me as a cover and get him quickly!"

"…"

What happened to the implicit agreement to do this in moderation that we had made earlier?

Anyway, I couldn't show a roughed-up appearance, so I leaned over and aimed moderately.

"Ugh!"

It was funny that the paint that the other guy shot in the midst of all of this hit Ryu Chungwoo's back.

'Will it get through?'

Reluctantly, I fired an arrow.

It was a shot that I expected to not hit.

It would probably pass over his head.

"…Uagh!"

"…?"

But this… I got him?

"Ah! Seriously!"

It seemed the last remaining guy raised his hand to pull out an arrow, and he happened to raise it in the direction of the arrow I shot.

How could this happen?

"Uaaaa!!"

"Moondae won!"

The waiting crowd who had been eliminated poured out and began to rejoice.

Ryu Chungwoo also patted my back with a big smile.

“Great job!”

“…Wow!”

I clenched my fists while looking at the camera. It couldn’t be helped that I won, so let’s just stop the s*hit attitude controversy.

However, the MC, who ran out of the commentator’s booth, delivered good news.

“Ah~ Testar’s Hwarang! You’re out!”

“…?!”

“Why!?”

“The failed Hwarang should leave the battlefield right away, not help the surviving Hwarang!”

“…!!”

Just like that, the victory went to the green belt team.

“The winner of the coloring battle is… Onyx!”

“Waaaagh!!”

“It’s over!”

And Testar’s expression looked just like the raccoon's face after washing cotton candy[2]It’s a popular meme, y’all.

“…”

“Is it Chungwoo hyung’s fault?”

“I’m sorry…”

“It’s fine.”

With Cha Eugene’s dejected answer, the filming of <Idol Hwarang Battle> was over.

* * *

And <Idol Hwarang Battle> failed spectacularly.

It was not due to sadism or controversy.

It was just that boring.

– Nothing catches my eye

– Please tell me when Testar’s cut is out

– The editing is so bad

– The captions are so cheesy. Why is it so old-fashioned? It’s no fun ㅠㅠ

– How can it be so boring with that composition…? I really don’t understand.

– Why can’t they bring out Ryu Chungwoo’s crazy genius national team vibe? Ah, it’s so frustrating.

The editing and subtitles were so old-fashioned that they couldn’t make use of the sick taste of the content.

In addition, the publicity wasn’t stimulating, so the word of mouth about Testar before airing itself didn’t spread.

This was because the production team was overly conscious of the ‘Idol Olympics’ so they only focused on the format of the program to distribute press releases.

Thanks to this, the people who liked Testar didn’t even know that Testar was going to show up at all.

– If it was the kids’ reality show where they went Daegwallyeong and played with the sheep, it would have been more fun than this

– All that remains is the kids’ Hwarang outfit and Ryu Chungwoo’s proof of being a gold medalist

– WeTube golden hand’s re-edited Testar cut version is out (link)

└Heol, when I look at it like this, it’s so much fun

└That’s right, it should have been done like this instead of editing it like a documentary about the kids not winning first place. It’s so much cuter and funnierㅠㅠ

Only photos and videos of various idols dressed in Hwarang remained and were used as good sales materials, and <Idol Hwarang Battle> had completely served its purpose.

It couldn’t be organized and ended forlornly just like that.

But apart from that, the stock price of Testar, who appeared in this ruined program, continued to rise.

==========

[Testar’s Initial Chodong[3]Originally, I translated Initial chodong as ‘first period’, ‘initial record’, or its variations, but I decided to use the word Initial Chodong from now on. It generally means the first week

sale or something like that. Sorry for the confusion, K-pop terms like this are new to me.]

: Closing at 780,000 copies (weekly trend summary table)

==========

– Wow, crazy

– It's driving me crazy

– But their momentum is really scary. If you go into the group chat, there must be at least one Testar profile picture

– Idol Inc's hype is almost all gone, is this number possible?

– They probably don't have a lot of overseas stock, hmm…

└They're booming overseas (receipt photo) They did so well in Korea during their debut activity that it seems they have gone viral overseas as well

└Overseas fans are accurate when it comes to noticing things like this

– They must have made a lot of impacts because they had a lot of fan signing events… Anyway, congratulations~

└Hn, there weren't that many Testar's fansign events, it was just average.

└ㅋㅋㅋYes~

– To be honest, I think they should be included in the top 3 male idols. Honestly, among the top 3, there are times when their songs aren't as good as Testar's. Isn't Testar on the next level after Vtic in Korea?

.

└Yeah, no, I don’t agree

└Let’s stop screwing around

└Testar fans never claim that Testar is the number one group. We’re just happy with the kids

The fans were still keeping a low profile, but Testar, who broke their Initial Chodong record with a difference of more than 100,000 copies and was doing well on the music charts, had completely established itself as a ‘popular idol’.

Thanks to their record in the first week, they even managed to achieve the no. 1 spot on music shows.

==========

[How I feel about the kids winning first place + encore video]

: Guys, congratulation ㅠㅠ

+1st place pledge to sing different parts ㅋㅋ Cuties…

==========

– Congrats on winning first place, Testar♡ We’ll fly forever ♡

– Finally, we heard our name in the acceptance speech!! ㅠㅠ

– Guys, thank you so much for mentioning Loviewer whenever you hold the mic ㅋㅋ Cute ㅠ

– Ah, Rabin speaks clearly about his feelings. It’s so cute that he’s proud. I love our rabbit ㅠㅠ

– What's this, Park Moondae, why are you so good at rapping?ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└Moon Puppy did so well that Eugene got excited

– The chorus part is so heartwarming and nice.

Fans were nervous that something strange might happen due to the other fandoms keeping them in check, but they enjoyed the career-high and continued to have fun.

And it was around this time that the game <127 Section> that collaborated with Testar was released.

The fans actually weren't too wary of the game. This was because Testar's comeback activity seemed to have very few elements that were related to this game.

– I think they just made a game collaboration song based on the b-side song?

– The concept is similar, but Better Me, written as a b-side, feels a little dystopian, and the game is post-apocalyptic, so it's a bit different. I think they just picked a song that had a similar atmosphere and be done with it

– Maybe it's better not to put too much meaning to the elements in the trailer.

– Just looking at Magical Boy's worldview, the title track 'Airplane' is definitely connected

The analysis when the trailer first came out also had withered and decreased due to the analysis of the Airplane music video.

The atmosphere was similar to when the game advertisement came out.

It was because the advertisement was so carefully selected that they even used photos of Testar members wearing their trailer costumes to promote the game.

– It's just like a game commercial being shoot by other celebrities ㅋㅋ Ha, I was worried for nothing

– I'm going to play once because I'm loyal to Chungwoo dressed in a sniper costume.

– I was surprised to see Testar's trailer come out as an advertisement on WeTube. So, it was a game advertisement;; After watching it more, the gameplay video come out.

The response from game enthusiasts was also good.

– Subway commercial…? (rolling eyes emoji)

– They're ready to suck up money

– I've lost my mind…

– You have to strike when the iron is hot. Take good care of the server, factory punks

– Hold your breath until it's released

– From now on, I will only buy T1's fried dumplings

– The publicity cost a lot of money, don't tell me those bastards are going to split the game and call it DLC

└Then only death awaits

Although they were anxious, they welcomed the expansion. Because the probability that the company wouldn't go bankrupt right away even if they pulled some crazy sh*t had increased.

– Please let it be a god-game

– If they go bankrupt this time, it's impossible to recover. It's a loss to the company

– I've confirmed the gameplay scene of the promotional video. The beta feels alive. If they properly digest the inflow, they can do it

└F*ck… Please!

And the day the game was released.

Both Testar's fandom and the game community were turned upside down.

* * *

"Oh, it's done."

Park Moondae's first homma placed Park Moondae's video that she had been editing for a while into the gallery and checked her smartphone.

The game <127 Section> was downloaded and an app icon was added to the desktop.

'I've never played a game like this before, but… I'll have to give it a try.'

Because Moondae did the commercial. She was going to take care of the number of downloads and the number of plays.

Of course, she didn't have a hobby of playing games like this, so she thought she'd just do a tutorial and then quit. She launched the app.

‘Let’s quickly finish it.’

After a brief extra installation, the tutorial started right away.

[You’ve woken up in Section 127.]

And five minutes later. In the game, the college student met a comrade character.

It was the boy in a black hoodie who used drones. His eyes glowed purple whenever he controlled his drones.

“…!?”

It was Park Moondae from the comeback trailer video.

- 1. it’s literally RoR, as in the English alphabet. When I looked it up, it’s **Return on revenue** (ROR), which means a measure of company profitability based on the amount of revenue generated, but it doesn’t really fit the context, is it? It’s probably a gaming term but I have no clue what it could be.

- 2. It’s a popular meme, y’all

- 3. Originally, I translated Initial chodong as ‘first period’, ‘initial record’, or its variations, but I decided to use the word Initial Chodong from now on. It generally means the first week sale or something like that. Sorry for the confusion, K-pop terms like this are new to me.

CHAPTER 111

“Is this Moondae? Moondae?”

Park Moondae’s homma unknowingly muttered and touched the screen. She couldn’t help but doubt it because the figure’s characteristics were similar to the comeback trailer.

As the conversation progressed, the name of the character that appeared as ‘??’ was introduced.

And it wasn’t ‘Park Moondae’.

[??? :… Right.]

[B11: I… Call me B11. That’s enough.]

Then the comrade’s additional cut scene entered, and a boy in a black hood rotating a luminous drone showed up as a playable character.

‘Ah, then did Moondae copy this character?’

She had seen a few advertisements with that concept, so she tried to skip over it, but her over-immersed mind started to spin and analyze the situation.

‘Wait a minute. In High Five, the back number of Moondae’s baseball uniform was 11. Then if we assume that B is derived from ‘Park[1] Park is 박 in Korea. It’s actually ‘Bak’ but usually gets romanized as Park ‘…!?’

The college student gulped at the reasoning that seemed to fit.

‘Huh, anyway, let’s keep playing…!’

Surprised by the unexpected content, the college student continued to play.

Besides, this game was actually quite interesting.

The game was completely in first-person and it began with the main character falling into a sinkhole while out of town and moving to Seoul, a half-destroyed parallel world.

[It’s strange. I clearly went out early in the morning, but the sky outside the sinkhole is red and dark.]

[I think I hear someone crying and groaning up there, but I’m not sure.]

[I am terribly embarrassed, but I am also worried that the sinkhole will collapse further if I stay still. What should I do?]

– Find a way up.

– Wait for rescue.

– Call for help.

– Listen to the sound more closely.

The atmosphere was somewhat depressing, but it was interesting and fun thanks to the joy of adventuring and exploring a well-constructed worldview for the first time and the abundance of options.

Even though it revolved around text, it wasn’t boring because it included eye-catching graphics or illustrations for each battle and choice. And it was full of tension because it required a combination of luck and strategy.

‘Hmm, let’s keep going. I’m also curious about the story behind it.’

However, it hadn’t given much weight to the storyline of the comrade character who was presumed to be Moondae, or of the characters similar to other Testar members who continued to join.

So, she wondered if each of the characters’ stories would come out in the future.

‘Ah, perhaps, will Testar’s worldview appear?’

There would be people who cursed at Testar for making them play games, but for those who decided to continue playing, it was a bit thrilling.

The game continued, and the college student arrived at a subway station that had been engulfed in a strange red lump, with the animated characters half collapsed.

[The building is dark and only the emergency lights are blinking. It seems there’s a strange fishy smell coming up. The subway doesn’t seem to be operating, but there is still an announcement that a train is entering.]

[B11 :… Should I go search?]

– I agree.

– I refuse.

– Rebuke him.

– Go together.

“Go with me! Let’s go together!”

The college student was completely over-immersed and enjoyed the game.

It was then.

[Sudden vibrations start to reverberate everywhere!]

[A huge red lump that is stuck underground flashes ominously, and strange things start to soar from the lump with a terrible noise…]

A battle forcibly progressed.

And all of the comrades were killed by something terrible from the red lump.

The last one left was B11 who resembled Park Moondae.

[B11:… You live.]

A cut scene where Park Moondae pushed the main character away was inserted.

The screen turned black with the vibration of the smartphone.

…Again, a narration popped up.

[…And when you come to my senses, you realize that you're alone.]

[All that remains are the burdens and heavy lives left by the comrades.]

[Now you have to go through this ruined Seoul, <Section 127> alone.]

And only then did the opening screen of the game appear. On the dark screen, the <127 SECTION> logo emerged, based on the biohazard sign

"…??"

The college student stared blankly at her smartphone, unable to accept what had just happened.

After a brief opening, a short help message appeared on the loading screen.

[※ The comrades who died in battle will not return. Forever.]

"…?!"

The college student was horrified.

"What the, w-what is this?"

Something must have gone wrong.

'What kind of game kills all your comrades as soon as it starts?!'

It was in the middle of <CHAPTER 2>'s cut scene that started after the loading was finished that she managed to pull herself together.

[You admit that you can't do everything alone in the end.]

[You need a comrade. Whether it's a strategic ally or a temporary alliance.]

'Yes, it can't end like this!'

The college student recalled the complaints she had heard from her close gamer acquaintances.

'I heard that there are a lot of people who have to buy all the game progress and connect them to be able to pick the characters!'

In that case, she was willing to spend money with tears and curses, saying ‘Are you treating me like an ATM? Isn’t your intention to extract money too vicious?’

‘Moondae, only pull out Moondae… ’

However, after the cut scene, there was a warning attached to the character draw that finally popped up.

[※The character you welcomed as a comrade will not appear again.]

“Hey!!”

She couldn’t figure out why these crazy people wouldn’t let her spend the money she owned.

She hurriedly turned on the Internet.

‘Maybe they died because I picked the wrong choice…!’

Then, this time, she would go through the strategy and proceed properly! She logged on to SNS with a bit of hope.

And she saw fans rolling in a pit of fire.

– Uaaaa

– What should I do? What is this? Why did Moondae die?ㅠㅠㅠ

– My impression on playing section 127: The developer is as evil as Idol Inc’s production team

– No, Baese in a robeㅠㅠ He told me to live and he diedㅠㅠ But why can’t he live, isn’t this strange? It’s strange, why did he no matter what I choose?ㅠㅠ

– I've sorted it out… 7 comrades from the tutorial… Those comrades who are similar to Testar from the trailer will be annihilated at the end of Chapter 1 no matter what they do…

However, it seems that the character with the highest favorability dies last… F*ck this gameㅠㅠ Ughuhuㅠㅠ

"…"

The college student lost her mind.

And she wasn't the only one who was distraught.

In Testar's trailer video, the latest comments had already started running in hangul at a terrifying speed.

– ㅠㅠㅠAigoo guysㅠㅠ

– Now that I know the kids' ending… I can't even watch the trailer the same way… Help me… Take my money and give my kids backㅠㅠ

– Is this why they said you won't die in the lyrics?ㅠㅠ No, seeing it again, they're saying they'll save me, crazy

– No way, is that why bonus book is the title? Is it Testar's big picture trying to reduce the blow by taking themselves outside? But a weak fan is already a disgrace… Come back to life!ㅜㅜ

There were sometimes people who fought to not give game spoilers, but most of them were swept away by the flooding comments.

Fortunately, fans soon regained their sanity and began to worry about hate posts such as 'The trouble Testar's fans caused to the new game'.

So the comments were mainly filled with crying or screaming.

And foreigners who didn't know the situation were perplexed, leaving comments such as 'What happened?' and 'Someone tell me why'.

What was funny and sad was that in the midst of this, there were people who continued to curse at the game because it was fun.

In addition, attractive elements suddenly popped up.

It was a costume shop that was added midway through Chapter 2.

[Give your comrades a new look!]

If you clicked this pop-up, costumes that were currently available for special purchase would appear.

And now, the costumes sold during the game launch season… were the costumes of comrades who disappeared brutally in Chapter 1.

Although dead comrades couldn't be pulled from the character draw, they had made it possible to overlay their appearance.

In addition, this explanatory text was attached.

[Purple Drone Boy Costume]

[: Someone's costume that evokes sentimental memories. I once protected you.]

Thanks to this, the people who picked characters with similar abilities and personality scripts and put on costumes to play them appeared one after another.

By the way, this symptom also occurred to game enthusiasts.

But they were a little calmer. Because it had already happened in the previous work.

– Abandoned Factory’s persistence to not give up the leadership even after sticking with a large company

– It wasn’t just a day or two this happened, so I already expected it

– These bastards must have enjoyed being cursed at. Are you feeling good after releasing the costumes and blocking the refund run?

– It’s ranked 1 Play Store sale, I don’t feel good

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋShoot, I am so annoyed, save Bill~

└I watched the trailer and got Billㅅㅂ I really f*cking liked the sniper, should I buy a male character costume, you factory bastards?

– If the game is thrown out after 2 years, they will 100% give the selection of initial comrades. They’ll get all the management’s know-how and rob naive people’s pockets until the end.

└Wouldn’t it be better to do it now when they all get sucked into it?

└You’re right, but I’m already sweetly choosing a costume, so it won’t happen

└It’s modeled after idiots’ long-term cash

And as they had expected, Abandoned Factory didn’t open the selection of the initial comrades despite a flood of inquiries.

Since it was time for the users to be more immersed in the game’s worldview, it was the developer’s determination not to artificially give out comrades who could break the flow of the story.

At the same time, it was also because sales were already doing insanely well.

– Successfully restored all 7 characters with identical abilities and similar personalities. now we'll be together forever… (game screenshot)

└ Oh my goodness

└How much did you spend…?

└ Whatever you imagine, I spent more than that. But I'm satisfied.

This happened frequently.

Several Testar's fans and game enthusiasts who were completely immersed in the game continued to increase the sale.

And in the process, most of the 127 Section players became familiar with Testar.

– I'm glad that they're living well as idols in 3D

└Isn't something strange…? Isn't it usually the opposite…?

└What the hell, are you saying they died in the second dimension and got reincarnated?

└Wow, this bastard is real.

– Bill's name in this life is Moondae? No wonder he was given the codename B11, it seems even back then his name was suck

└There is Easter egg in Myeongdong Cathedral. I recommend you check it out at least once.

└Oh ㄱㅅ

This interest lasted for quite some time, as they could occasionally find small tidbits about the initial comrades in the later chapters of the

game.

And an unexpected content from Testar was suddenly announced.

[Testar(TeSTAR) ‘BETTER ME’ Official Music Video]

The music video for Testar’s b-side track, BETTER ME, was released.

And the beginning of this music video… It was the last scene of the game collaboration trailer.

- 1. Park is 박 in Korea. It’s actually ‘Bak’ but usually gets romanized as Park

CHAPTER 112

When BETTER ME music video was played, Park Moondae's face was first seen staring at the camera.

Black hood and purple eyes, it was his appearance from the trailer.

[…]

Park Moondae stretched out his hand toward the camera without saying a word.

Then he operated the camera.

Click.

Whoosh.

As the video rewinded, scenes from the trailer began to pass backward.

Water tank. Sewer. Mannequins, falling guns. Biohazard sign.

And the screen finally began to show a worn-out cloth doll with a cogwheel.

The opening scene, where the rewind stopped.

Then the song began.

– Do not trust it

There no justice

Oooohh…

At that moment, the scene changed to Cha Eugene, who was holding a brand new doll instead of an old one.

Then the screen was pushed all the way back, taking a full shot of the whole area.

It was an ordinary classroom where students were taking classes. Testar members were seen sitting all over the classroom. The everyday expressions and the appearances as if they were attending class were caught on camera.

However, as soon as the rhythmic moombahton accompaniment began to flow out, the atmosphere of the classroom completely changed.

Whoosh.

All of the students except Testar disappeared, and an X-shape was drawn on each desk with luminous graffiti.

Then an intense group dance cut began against the backdrop of a dark classroom.

– Looking back, I can't tell

Umm

What happened.

Between the dance scenes, cuts in which the members were alone in distinctive places such as the school's music room and gym were inserted for each part of the choreography.

However, each space had changed into a strange atmosphere related to each Testar's ability that had been revealed since the time of 'Magical

Boy'.

So, similar to what was seen in the concept photo, Testar in techwear outfits seemed to have created their own territories like a mid-level boss game.

– *Target Target Target*

GOT IT

As you run, as you grab

Singing in their own space, they looked distinctive and bored.

But. As soon as the trailer's thunderous riff melody fell, the atmosphere changed completely.

DDVVViiii-!!

The scenes of Testar running away or rushing to escape from the monsters in school uniforms flashed by in a quick cut-scene, and the screen stopped at the class instruction on the blackboard.

Rough red graffiti was painted over the standard black letters.

[WINNER-TAKE-All :)]

[LOSER? Good bye : (]

Blood splattered over the English word that meant 'goodbye'.

Then the chorus began to flow.

– *BUT.*

It's just confusing

Since when

I'm just confused

Umm

How far you're going.

The desperate game of survival that didn't match with the melancholy chorus continued.

In the music video, the lyrics began to take on a completely specific meaning.

And as the song progressed, Testar's moves became more and more extreme.

Fighting cutscenes became more frequent than the acting, and the moment the last monster fell, the tension peaked.

[…]

When Kim Raebin looked back and lifted an awl, Ryu Chongwoo shot him in the back.

– *Umm*

Afterward, the music video centered on more intense performance cuts, and the cut scenes of hunting each other had been changed to an indirectly creepy composition.

And the song's bridge.

During the 2nd verse, Bae Sejin, who didn't get much cut scenes, got a close-up.

While singing his part, Bae Sejin suddenly got up and left the school entrance, his territory.

– That we can't handle, our Paradox

When cutting the line.

Bigger, Payback.

Get out of self-made twists and turns

Bae Sejin ran down the hallway and stood in front of the door at the end.

When he opened the door, a normal classroom appeared.

However, as the camera turned, the red graffiti paint dripping from the top of his school uniform was captured.

The moment Bae Sejin threw something in his hand, the final chorus burst out.

– BUT.

It's NOT confusing!

Who am I

I'm NOT confused

Oh!

To find out, BETTER ME

What was in Bae Sejin's hand was a heavy metal padlock.

The lock flew in a curve and fell, smashing the class instruction board. Shattered frames of the class instruction board were captured in slow motion.

And as soon as the frame fell to the floor, the moombahton accompaniment started playing.

Bae Sejin smiled.

– *BETTER ME*

Along with the splendid choreography, the timeline in the video began to change.

Kim Raebin's awl, which was being picked up after the last monster fell, was stopped by Park Moondae's series of attacks, and Testar disbanded with irritation at each other.

Their faces looked relaxed.

And the screen went back to the cut of Cha Eugene holding an old cloth doll.

[…]

But this time, Cha Eugene didn't spin the cogwheel.

[♫♪~]

Cha Eugene whistled and tossed the doll into the corner, then he started walking down the smashed hallway.

A fixed camera caught his breezy gait from behind, and 'BETTER ME' emerged as a white subtitle on the screen.

– BETTER ME

With that last hook, the video ended.

And Testar fandom faced an unexpected MV grand interpretation era.

* * *

“What are you watching?”

“Interpretation of our music video.”

“Why did it get an interpretation?”

“…Hmm. Do you want to see it, too?”

“Yes!”

It was better to let Cha Eugene join than to be trapped in endless chains of questions and answers.

I connected the WeTube I was watching to the TV and launched it.

A duck character appeared on the screen.

[Hello, WeTube friends! This is the duck that interprets music videos, Haeorigamja.]

[Today’s topic, the popular group! We have prepared an interpretation of Testar’s newly released music video ‘BETTER ME’.]

[In fact, I also cried hard while playing the game, so I may have a little personal opinion in this interpretationㅠㅠ I apologize in advance.]

[※ <Section 127> Spoiler alert!]

[Let’s get started!]

The duck introduced the simple plot of the ‘BETTER ME’ music video and explained the overall story.

[The monsters in school uniforms that appear in the middle of the music video seem to be the students that stayed in the same classroom as Testar.]

[Like this, all the monsters’ school uniforms have name tags with their names on them. You can find name tags of the same color and name in the peaceful classroom cut scene.]

It was mostly like this.

‘Good observation.’

I listened to the duck with some interest.

However, as soon as the contents of the music video were finished, this duck said something tremendous.

[In fact, there was a theory of Testar’s worldview that I had been speculating about since ‘Airplane’, I was really convinced after watching ‘BETTER ME’ music video, so I’m going to tell you.]

[In Testar’s worldview, Park Moondae and Bae Sejin are probably the same person.]

“Cough.”

Bae Sejin, who was leaving the kitchen while drinking coffee, choked. Cha Eugene blinked and waited for the duck’s next words.

[Since ‘Magical Boy’, the two have been on opposite paths. Park Moondae locked the front door of the school and Bae Sejin broke it

down.]

[And in this ‘BETTER ME’ music video, Park Moondae turns the camera to close the time, and Bae Sejin breaks the class instruction frame that symbolizes this terrible time.]

[If you look at it like this, their abilities are the complete opposite, so why are they the same person? That’s because these two abilities are actually on the same line.]

[Both deal with time and space constraints, but Park Moondae is the one who imposed the restriction. Bae Sejin used his ability to destroy the restriction.]

“What’s your character?”

“On the same line. We’re on the same line.”

Bae Sejin answered and sat down next to the sofa. It seemed he became interested in the interpretation video.

[As I mentioned in the last video, Park Moondae’s magic props are assorted as if they were books, but they are actually ‘sleep’. Park Moondae goes back to the past by sleeping or blocking the view symbolized by sleeping.]

On the screen, a hand covering and removing the camera, Park Moondae standing at the main gate of the school, and I appeared.

And the video continued until I opened the door and ran into the school.

It was a scene from Airplane music video.

[By the way, isn’t this cut familiar? That’s right. It also appeared in this BETTER ME music video.]

[But it's Bae Sejin, not Park Moondae.]

The cut of Bae Sejin running down the school hallway was repeated in the video. The composition was certainly the same.

[Besides, what is the object Bae Sejin threw that broke the class instruction board frame? It is the same lock Park Moondae put on the gate in 'Magical Boy'.]

That was a detail I put in for them to notice.

[Based on these points, I hypothesized that these two are actually different personalities of the same person.]

And the evidence continued.

[Did you just see that? In Airplane music video, there are only six dorm beds. And in BETTER ME music video, Park Moondae sits alone in the back seat in the far corner. In fact, it's a position that wouldn't look strange if there are no students.]

[And so far, there has not been a single cut where someone other than Bae Sejin speaks directly to Park Moondae.]

The members were amazed.

"Oh."

"…It's plausible."

It was true.

But the problem was that it was just a misunderstanding.

The lock was taken from the front gate, but this scene was cut off due to the time, and the director just happened to like the composition of the

hallway, so he did it the same way.

The fact that there were no cuts of me talking to the other members… No, Seon Ahyeon didn't seem to be there in the first place.

However, the number of views and comments was great, as if a considerable amount of fans had wondered about this theory.

'…Should I suggest using that setting from the next album onwards?'

Shouldn't we offer what the buyer likes, not what the seller likes?

In any case, the music video wrapped up the 'Park Moondae are Bae Sejin are the same person theory' and went back to explaining the worldview connection.

[Considering the type slip through Park Moondae's dream, the timeline continues in the order of 'Airplane' -> 'Magic Boy' -> 'BETTER ME', and the trailer video 'BONUSBOOK'.]

[However, maybe the trailer video wasn't going to be included in the official plot. Bae Sejin stopped the incident in this 'BETTER ME' music video and ended it with 'something that didn't happen'.]

The screen showed the trailer's clip in which Cha Eugene exploded the doll and the music video clip in which he didn't.

'You guess this correctly.'

It was a device made so that the plot wouldn't get too involved with the game.

We didn't want to be dragged around by the story of the game, and the game's side probably didn't want to be sucked into our worldview.

'It's treated as an IF version.'

Looking at the people's reactions to the game now, I thought it was a good choice… Even so, there were quite a few people who lost their minds, so we couldn't give them a bigger shock.

[It's a good thing considering the ending they fit in <127 Section>, but… It's really sad that we still have a long way to go to see the future of our first comrades ㅠㅠ.]

And a caption [Duck sobbing the moment B11 died] appeared at the bottom.

"…"

It seemed its influence was stronger than expected.

[However, the abilities the members used in the trailer will be reflected in the future worldview, so this duck is looking forward to it! Quack Quack!]

[Then everyone, see you in the next music video interpretation~]

"See you~"

"The duck is smart."

I handed over the TV to Cha Eugene and checked the video comments on my smartphone.

– Wow, really, Testar is crazy and drives the world insane

– That they're the same character ㄹㅇI got goosebumps

– Haeorigamja, thank you for your high-quality interpretation~ Thanks to you, I can comfortably watch the music video without using my head!

– I thought it was a battle royale feeling from the moment I saw Baromi, but it's more interesting to see it this way. I enjoyed watching it~^^

Looking at this, it seemed this person's theory had already been established. Even if I sort it by the latest comment, no one criticized or pointed it out.

'It's fun.'

It was interesting to see it being interpreted in a new way, even the parts that no one intended was neatly fitting.

And game enthusiasts who accidentally joined from time to time were also noticeable.

– So what do I have to do to see Bill?

└You can follow Moondae's SNS~ㅎㅎ

└No, I'm a game fan, but I was wondering if Moondae-nim did anything else with B11, so I posted a comment. Anyway, thank you for the reply ㅠㅠ

└Yesㅠㅠ

"Hmm."

This reminded me. Come to think of it, there was an additional release this week.

It was just content released as a fan service, but I wasn't sure if this side would unexpectedly react.

'It could be a bit embarrassing.'

I turned off my phone while rubbing the back of my neck.

And at 10:31 pm the next day, another new video was uploaded at Testar's official WeTube channel.

[Testar(TeSTAR) 'BETTER ME' choreography video late Halloween Ver]

It was a choreography video of Testar dressed as the initial comrades of <Section 127> in a Halloween costume version.

CHAPTER 113

For the past few days, in the <127 Section> community, some hardcore players had been analyzing ‘BETTER ME’ music video.

It was because they formed a strange belief that there would be game-related content in it due to its connection with the trailer.

==========

[Godstar is confirmed in this video]

: The monsters wearing school uniforms in the middle seemed to be related.

When you go to the cave of Gangnam Bookstore, you can see the records of survivors when the meteorite falls, and it is the same as the description of the people who have changed because of the meteorite (game screenshot), which means Godstar video is a content about the time when the meteorite fell 7 years ago.

==========

– The collaboration reached that far?ㄷㄷ

– Hey, it’s plausible

– Do I have to watch boy idol music videos to play this game?

– Is this what you call weeb’s immersion?

– Bullshit ㄴㄴ It means 7 years had passed but their face is still the same, the Factory bastards won't miss out on this

└What if everyone's already defected by the meteorite? It's a Godstar psychic concept, but what if that psychic ability is due to the meteorite mutation?

└This punk is so smart

└Is your brain taken hostage by the factory? It's a smart delusion, but it sounds appealing to me, who's already a factory worker

└You people are crazy ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

It was controversial, but the more people tore down the music video, the more suspicious it was.

If you put it on your nose, it was a nose ring, if you put it on your ears, it was an earring, that was how they saw it.

– Do you see the calendar behind the classroom? It's 2030. Section 127 is set in 2037, so this is seven years before the meteorite crisis. It's a perfect fit, right? (screenshot of the MV's blurry background)

– Godstar fans are pushing the theory that Bill and the doctor are the same person, but if this is the case, it explains why Bill is the only one with a codename. Bill is an Android clone linked to the drone.

└ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ You guys are really funny

However, there was no big evidence and the video wasn't designated as an official collaboration, so the story hovered around the line of doubt.

And as usual, people who chanted prayers for the initial comrades occasionally made an appearance.

– Ah, whatever, give me back the sniper, you Abandoned Factory bastards ㅋㅋㅋ Or sell the right to change the comrades' name. Give the sniper a name

└Hiik otaku…!

└Do you do that sort of thing?

– I've just started, but I'm in a hurry to ask, why are they all dying? Please give me a guide

└There's no such thing.

└If you go to official cafes, guys like you appear every hour ㄱㄱ

At a time when the initial comrades were still hot issues, Testar uploaded a late Halloween choreography video.

The video even started with all of Testar lying on the floor, from the thumbnail.

And as soon as the intro of 'BETTER ME' started playing, each member stood up and took a different starting position from the original choreography.

It was the position from the illustration that appeared when entering the battle in the game.

Because they dressed up earnestly, the members who looked the same like the trailer even made similar facial expressions, raising the mood.

Cha Eugene even changed the intro.

– Do you trust me?

It's ME

Oooohh—.

Afterward, whenever the most impressive parts of their verses came out, all the members brought out small props that symbolized their characters and briefly copied the battle highlight cutscene.

The atmosphere was light and pleasant because most of them made a compromise with hats, flasks, and piles of small light bulbs to save the choreography.

However, Kim Raebin was flustered when he knocked over the mannequin while dragging it out of the blind spot of the camera in the chorus he sang.

– It’s just confusing

Since when

I’m just confused

Umm

How far you’re going

With the flustered Kim Raebin and the members holding back their laughter and moving the mannequin together, the melancholic lyrics somehow sounded funny like a meme.

In addition, from members who did it very shamelessly to members who were a little embarrassed or ashamed of exaggerated combat motions, it matched the impressions of the characters shown in the game.

Thanks to this, the over-immersion of the people watching the video intensified and peaked at the last part.

– Thank you!

– See you again~

– See you!!

Originally, it was a last-minute dance break where the gloomy atmosphere was released and reached its peak.

But when the members who danced happily waved their hands and said that, the endings that completely matched them in the game overlapped.

The members were just shy and excited about the fun shooting, but the aftermath was scary.

The comments were full of crying people.

Even the English comments were pushed out of the top exposure.

-ㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠUaaagh

– We're going to see each other again, right? Right, guys?ㅠㅠ You're collaborating again, right?

– Ah, PTSD-ssi is coming, but what is this happy feeling?

– Guys, just wait, I'm going to scream now. I'm not going to stop until everyone gets it rightㅠㅠ

– My kids are alive and doing well over there, but I was obsessed with the wrong kids in the game… Let them go… Let's wait until our Testar comes back…

Conflicting opinions were simultaneously recommended and posted in the comments, and people who cried and laughed in large comments

appeared one after another.

Even in the game community where the video was shared, the atmosphere was the same.

– Dead comrades are back for Halloween

ㄴㅅㅂ

ㄴDon’t leave comments like this, it’s sad

ㄴㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋAh, our Bill isn’t dead, he’s still alive in my deck. I just changed his name, what are you guys saying?

– Don’t make such childish jokes when you’re called ‘Godstar’ (emoticon unable to hold back tears)

– Godstar is better than devilish factory bastards

Thanks to this, even the non-fan game players joined the procession of Loviewers who cried and laughed in the comments.

The curious foreign fans were confused again because they couldn’t understand the situation, but it became more painful for them after they understood the situation through translations on SNS.

It was because <127 Section> had not yet launched a global service.

– I really want to play that game (laughing and crying emoticon)

– PURE JEALOUSLY (burning emoticon)

Along with the suffering of foreign fans who didn’t even get a chance to mourn, the Halloween commemorative choreography video successfully became a channel for game enthusiasts to enter.

That's how the stormy October with the game collaboration came to an end.

* * *

In early November, the release of the game collaboration content was over.

But, of course, the group schedule became busier. This was because during this comeback, the results were better than the debut and the stock price soared.

As if to prove that, I was running on this schedule.

A high-cost commercial.

"Raise the corners of your mouth and smile~"

I held up the lightstick and tried to smile as best as I could. Fortunately, the director seemed satisfied and he threw another instruction.

"Tilt your head here!"

Tilt my head…

By the way, I was told that a picture of a dog's ears would be edited on top of this.

'…Isn't that too much?'

Even the title of the ad was this.

[Magical Boy Testar's magical artificial intelligence assistant, Curiosy!]

On top of that, the AI character was a puppy, so it seemed they wanted to use Park Moondae more actively.

I wondered if it would be okay to be broadcasted on TV like this, but…

It was worth 350 million dollars in three months, so I decided to shut up and follow the advertiser's instructions. They would take care of it.

"Yes, that's enough~"

"Thank you."

Anyway, the shooting went smoothly.

The waiting members expressed their joy at the finished today's schedule.

But Keun Sejin didn't take his eyes off his smartphone and only waved his hand with a smile.

Hmm, he wasn't that kind of guy, so it didn't feel good.

"What are you doing?"

"Ah, sorry. It's not a big deal."

Keun Sejin shrugged his shoulders and put down his smartphone.

And staring alternatively at Keun Sejin and me from next to us, Cha Eugene blurted out with his eyes shining.

"Is it your girlfriend?"

"…!!"

"What?! No, absolutely not! Hey, what are you talking about~"

"Whoa!"

“Don’t even think about dating!”

“It’s nothing like that!”

Keun Sejin shook Cha Eugene several times and let him go. Then he smiled and gave a proper explanation.

“The guys who debuted in the past suddenly contacted me. Hmm~ it’s unexpected.”

Seon Ahyeon admired from next to us.

“Se-Sejin has so many friends!”

“Ahaha, well, we’re not friends~ We just know each other?”

Keun Sejin laughed and drew a line with a smile.

‘Showing up and making a contact now is absurd.’

Keun Sejin finished his words with a shrug.

“We’ll see each other next month anyway~”

“H-Huh?”

“Oh, you mean the year-end awards ceremony?”

Keun Sejin nodded at Ryu Chungwoo’s words.

“Yes. There’s less than a month left until the first award ceremony~”

“Wow…”

“It’s already that time.”

At those words, everyone seemed to be immersed in their own aftertaste. It was clear that they were recalling the eventful year, starting from <Idol Inc> to this album.

And I had a hunch.

'I will go back to an even crazier schedule.'

It was a schedule that had very little free time other than sleeping time. In addition to that, we had to prepare for the year-end awards ceremony?

It was visible that the agency was still trying to narrow down and create a schedule that made the most money.

It would probably be difficult to reduce that, so we should cut down our sleeping time.

As if I wasn't the only one who thought that far, Kim Raebin raised his hand and said.

"Then we should start preparing for the year-end award ceremony soon."

"Mmm."

"…Do we have a lot to prepare in particular?"

Bae Sejin's cautious question, which had nothing to do with the music awards ceremony, sparked fierce reactions from K-pop veterans here and there.

"Let's do a special performance!"

"At any rate, I think I'll probably make about three separate versions of the arrangement. It's also unknown how much we'll participate, but…"

“M-Make a lot of new choreography…!”

“…”

Bae Sejin, who had the lowest stats, looked sick of it already, but he soon nodded. His face looked grim as he grasped the situation.

“…I-I see. I have to work hard.”

“Right. Let’s work hard and attend many awards ceremonies.”

“I love awards!”

“Ah, it would be great to receive it~”

The conversation between the guys who brightly gave up their lives continued amicably. The problem was that I did too.

‘I have to pay attention to the rookie award.’

It was fine to sleep late. I checked the status abnormality once again.

[‘Win an award or die’]

: If you don’t receive a Rookie of the Year award at the most prestigious domestic awards ceremony within the time limit, you will die

As long as the standard for the expression ‘most prestigious’ was ambiguous, I had to win Rookie Awards at the three most prestigious awards ceremonies.

‘It’s not directly related to the awards ceremony performance, but if the performance is insincere, even the people voting will lose their spirits.’

Considering the upcoming awards ceremony season, I had to pay as much attention to the performance as possible.

‘Well, we have no competitors in terms of levels.’

It was definitely more comfortable than before.

“First of all, Moondae will take responsibility for our live performance. Aren’t you too relaxed?”

“R-Really!”

“Thank you always.”

“…Right, thanks.”

“Haha!”

It became the topic of conversation while I was organizing my thoughts. Anyway, the team atmosphere was good.

And that night, I got a message on my way to the car.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Next is the Rookie Award, right?]

“…”

Isn’t he still on a tour?

At any rate, I didn’t want to get baited.

I quickly sent a reply.

[I would be really happy to receive any awards. I hope you get good results as well.]

After a while, a reply came back.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Yes ^^]

‘I really want to block him.’

I turned off the notification and turned on the Internet.

And while browsing awards ceremonies, I found an article that stood out.

[Isn’t it too much for Testar to win the Rookie Award?]

CHAPTER 114

“What’s wrong with Testar winning the rookie award?’

I could roughly guess what it was about, but I clicked it at once.

==========

[Isn’t it too much for Testar to win the rookie award?]

: Shouldn’t we see it as an extension of Idol Inc instead of a rookie group that debuted normally?

I think it should be viewed as a variety show. To be honest, they’re taking away other new groups’ opportunities.

==========

As expected.

‘I roughly expected this reaction.’

Isn’t this what I heard when we overlapped with VTIC? We were destroying the ecosystem.

Honestly, I could understand.

“<Idol Inc.> would’ve come up.’

Since it was a group that debuted with the glory of such a well-known audition program, it wasn’t strange to hear words such as the broadcasting company’s tyranny or stuff like that.

However, the participants had a hard time while filming the variety show, and in season 3, the higher-ups knew that they would fail and almost gave up, so it was a bit unfair to be recklessly criticized.

“This public opinion isn’t strong enough to change the trend anyway.’

Looking at the comments, it was already a one-sided argument that couldn’t be called a fight.

– That variety show was an idol audition, what are you talking about;

└Isn’t it even more unfair that It’s an idol audition…?

└Unfair, my ass. Anyone who sees this will think that idol audition is illegal ㅋㅋㅋ

– Ah, what’s this, I was writing a long letter to answer seriously, but it’s just an aggro?

– There are so many idols from audition programs, so should they all be treated as fake debuts? ㅋㅋㅋ Is it because Idol Inc is doing well? Strange arguments keep popping up

– So, you like the group that got pushed back from the Rookie Award this year, fighting!

– I also think the Idol Inc program itself is deformed, but that doesn’t mean Testar kids don’t deserve to be rookies.

– You went too far ㅉㅉ

The later comments almost ended up with ridicules to the writer.

“Hmm, I don’t really like this atmosphere.’

It seemed this article really was an aggro, but the problem was that there were occasional comments laughing at the performance of the rookie group that debuted this year.

They didn't seem to be Testar fans, just people who had fun mocking someone.

– Hm, even the best rookies this year barely managed to sell 80,000 copies… ㅋㅋ

└ㅋㅋㅋHeol, it's not even a game

└With these levels, it's a bit of a waste of the Rookie Award, isn't it? ㅋㅋㅋㅋIt's a shame ㅠ

"It's not good to give the fans of the rookie groups who debuted this year a chance to fight like this.'

It was a bit annoying, but it wasn't a big deal.

It was not a particularly popular article, and Testar's level wasn't outstanding enough that no one couldn't criticize us.

I just shrugged and turned to another page.

And the following week, even when I was in the middle of preparing for the year-end practice, I didn't worry too much about the Rookie Award.

* * *

The mirror in the dance practice room was damp.

"Let's take a break, huft, then we will start again."

"Ugh…"

“I’m dying.”

If even Cha Eugene said such a thing, I didn’t have to explain the other guys’ conditions.

“Cha Eugene… is probably the one suffering the most.’

This was because Cha Eugene’s singing part in the solo choreography for the song we were practicing now was quite long.

I thought the finished work would be great since we even put an aerial device in the middle… The problem was the person who did it was having a hard time.

“Do you want water?”

“Yes…”

I threw the bottle of mineral water I was carrying to Cha Eugene.

“…Me too, a little.”

“Me too, Moondae, be kind to me.”

I threw water at both Sejin who were far away. And for a moment, the practice room became quiet. Everyone was pouring water into their mouths.

After quite a while, Seon Ahyeon looked around and said.

“S-Still… I think it’ll be cool.”

“That’s right.”

“It will be a great stage if you could get the camera right.”

At Kim Raebin's words, giggles erupted here and there. Kim Raebin was a little bewildered as he couldn't figure out why people were laughing.

"Funny guy.'

I smiled and took out my smartphone. I was thinking of checking the progress of the Rookie of the Year voting in the meantime.

However, the manager came into the choreography practice room with a lot of drinks, so I naturally put the phone down.

"Hyung!"

"Coffee!"

"Thank you so much for making it cold…"

The manager asked while handing over the drinks.

"Right… Guys. How's the practice going?"

"Yes!"

"If we keep practicing like this, I think we'll do well at the award ceremony."

"Hmm, that's great! But guys, sit down."

"…?"

Ryu Chungwoo, who was relaying the progress as the representative, was a little bewildered, but he soon calmly gathered the members.

"What is it?"

"…Is there an additional schedule?"

“No, it’s not that. Um…”

The manager looked troubled. After hesitating a few times, he spoke seriously.

“Tomorrow… They said there will be an article. Regarding Idol Inc.”

“…!”

“T-net tried to block it as much as possible, but it didn’t work out. Our side is also preparing a response article, so don’t worry too much.”

“…What article is it?”

“Well, it’s a rumor about the participation in Idol Inc, but we already have all the rebuttal materials, so it’ll be okay… It seems to focus on Ryu Chungwoo in particular, but don’t panic.”

I barely swallowed my saliva.

“What’s going to explode has exploded now.’

This was 100% a controversy over having a writer as a relative.

‘The writer also kept her mouth shut, so I thought it wouldn’t be a big deal for a year.’

It seemed the group was doing so well that a lot of people tried to dig into us.

Perhaps Ryu Chungwoo had guessed this, his face was dark, but he didn’t look surprised.

He just asked carefully.

“…Do I have to say something?”

“I haven’t heard anything about that… Wait.”

The manager went out to talk on the phone again with a flustered look.

And the mood of the remaining members naturally dropped. It was because the adrenaline that offset the fatigue from practice had just disappeared with the news.

Keun Sejin asked seriously.

“Hyung-nim, you must be tired, but can we hear a brief explanation of what’s going on?”

“…Of course.”

Ryu Chungwoo repeated the same story he had told me at the last drinking party to the members.

To sum it up, the writer, a distant relative whom he had hardly ever seen, had contacted him through a family reunion.

Most of them were relieved, perhaps thinking that it wouldn’t spread into a big problem as long as the explanation went well.

“Hmm, then you’re not in a relation with her~”

“That’s right… I don’t think it’ll spread much if it’s explained properly.”

Ryu Chungwoo still looked bitter.

“I’m sorry for causing unnecessary controversy at such a critical time.”

“I-It’s fine! H-Hyung, don’t worry too much…”

“Well, there’s nothing we can do about it since it’s already happened. Let’s hope it will work out!”

Bae Sejin quietly added.

“…Ryu Chungwoo, in that case, then I should have already left the group.”

“…!”

This guy even knew how to joke around now.

And Cha Eugene replied brightly.

“That’s true!”

“Hey!”

“Haha!”

The hot-tempered Bae Sejin was funny, so the atmosphere loosened up a little.

“Well, worrying about it won’t do anything. Shall we continue practicing?”

“That’s a wise decision.”

The manager who came back after finishing the call was a bit taken aback when he saw us start practicing, but he went back with relief.

And the morning after I was worried about fatigue and just went to bed, a series of articles popped up.

[Idol Inc’s writer cast Testar’s Ryu Chungwoo through “family connection’]

[The uncomfortable truth of the audition program, Testar also has the power of blood ties?]

[Testar who debuted in Idol Inc. The writer's relative is the former medalist Ryu Chungwoo.]

It was a lineup that I had expected.

Comments quickly increased on a few articles on society, not entertainment.

"Don't look at the comments."

"…Got it."

Ryu Chungwoo looked worried.

"…The fans must be having a hard time."

Fortunately, rebuttal articles also appeared one after another.

[T1 Stars "Is the writer related? Ryu Chungwoo has never seen her face before']

[Idol Inc's writer is more distant to Ryu Chungwoo than his 15th cousin… She's not even a relative.]

Usually, in this case, the rebuttal articles often didn't receive proper attention.

However, the response was made immediately in such a short time, and Ryu Chungwoo's existing image was good, so he was able to be on the top of the portal news tab.

Of course, the efforts of the fans were great.

– I think she was just trying to contact Ryu Chungwoo somehow and ended up going to a family reunion? With that timing, the writer would

have hit the jackpot, but Ryu Chungwoo was fooled into the crazy Idol Inc ㅋㅋㅋ (👍11026 👎 1501)

– The 9th cousin is a stranger but 15th cousin is like an enemy (👍8490 👎 422)

– 15th cousin? Honestly, you guys are just nitpicking. If I was the writer, I would cast someone from the national team too (👍6178 👎 759)

Testar group fans were mostly convinced, and public opinion quickly began to recover.

The company's press and public relations team also contacted us separately.

"I don't think there will be a big problem. But let's refrain from SNS for a while, Chungwoo."

"…Yes, thank you."

Ryu Chungwoo looked relieved, but it seemed he was somewhat distraught that he couldn't post anything, such as an apology or appreciation to his fans.

I held back a sigh.

'…I guess there's a lot to be said.'

In fact, it had been confirmed that general public opinion had failed to recover in some communities on the Internet.

==========

[Am I the only one who feels weird about Ryu Chungwoo's explanation?]

: They are not related by blood simply because they are distant relatives~ Ryu Chungwoo was too well edited in Idol Inc to pass it up with that excuse.

I think it's unfair that he came in without being properly watched in the preliminary round and got recruited. You don't know what kind of deal there might have been in the process of casting.

==========

– He received all the main parts

– No, they said Ryu Chungwoo was cast when Idol Inc season 3 was going to fail… Aren't you going too far?

└Even after Idol Inc got successful, Ryu Chungwoo's portions were consistently good. Honestly, wasn't it strange that Ryu Chungwoo was the only one who got the image of a tragic leader?

– It can't be helped that it feels suspicious

– Ryu Chungwoo, National Team's shield, has been bad since Idol Inc, and now I'm saying it properly.

– Outsourcing… ㅋㅋㅋ They probably said they would let him go until the end. How annoying. Someone didn't even get the right portion, but Ryu Chungwoo got recruited?ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Suspicions and criticism for Ryu Chungwoo grew stronger, and eventually, the arrows were directed to the entire Testar.

– Honestly, the other members too… ㅋㅋ Hmm I can't say more because I'm afraid of the fans

└ㅋㅋㅋ I'll say it for you! No, is it only Ryu Chungwoo~ Honestly, all of the debut team members received editing benefits.

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋI'm so relieved.

└Fans are about to have a fit.

└Prediction: Who got a bad edit? Did they go up on stage without much portions?

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋsmart

└Even the bad editing was fixed later, but they cover their eyes and don't want to look like losers, those fans and the singers…

Of course, this atmosphere was not normal, so it did not last long and subsided to some extent.

It was because the people who were tired that the issue didn't work well this far had taken the lead in the second half.

The company seemed to think that these places would move on quickly if another issue broke out, so they put off their priorities as they focused on dealing with the mainstream media.

So, the public opinion that doubted Testar's legitimacy didn't immediately disappear and remained an inconvenience.

And not long after, this topic began to come out again.

==========

[Testar's Rookie Award]

: Their level is real, so there's nothing we can do about the popularity award or the main award… I want to give the rookie award to another groupㅠㅠ I feel so sorry for the kids who are robbed off…

==========

The difference from the last time was that there were people who actively responded.

CHAPTER 115

The arguments that claimed Testar shouldn't receive the Rookie of the Year award became more elaborate than before.

It was because the focus had shifted from Testar to the rookies.

– Really ㅠㅠ I feel bad when I think of the kids who are good enough by last year's standard has to give up…

– In the first place, the fact that they came from an entertainment show is confusing, if Testar just recently came out, would a rookie have this level?

└ㅇㅇ In a situation when Idol Inc's fairness is being questioned, giving them the Rookie Award is really too much

– Wow, I think you guys crossed the line. So what if Testar does some hoarding, I still acknowledge them

└Honestly, I think it's worse than hoarding.

└No, hoarding is a crime. What are you talking about…

└Don't you think it's more of a problem than a crime? That's why there's no way to stop it.

– Shouldn't we take this opportunity to separate the cases of the people who rapidly rose from a program?ㅠ The Rookie Award should be given to a real rookie.

'They're good at putting it together.'

They couldn't drag down the group's performance, so it seemed they didn't want to give the symbolic Rookie Award to us.

If we didn't get the Rookie Award through this, they might twist their words and say 'Perhaps they really weren't meant to receive the Eookie Award'.

But that wouldn't happen.

Because talking here didn't affect the actual award's counting.

'Well, it's not possible to give negative votes like in Idol Inc.'

Anyway, the main public opinion was all set, so the probability of problems occurring in the judges' scores was low.

It was possible that some communities would curse at us and not give any congratulations for winning the Rookie Award, but… It was unlikely that there would be problems with the award right away.

Right now, this article was also getting pushed back as time went by.

– Why did you even mention the hoarding? You've gone crazy

– Well, if there was a comet-like rookie who had sold about 200,000 copies, I would have been persuaded… Unfortunately, there were no rookies like that… ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– I understand how you feel, but why are you guys recreating the standard for the Rookie Award ㅋㅋ

There were a lot of comments like this.

'Let's just practice for the year-end performance.'

I stopped monitoring for now.

It was to avoid being unnecessarily affected.

'…I hope the fans don't get too stressed out.'

It was difficult to do anything because communication activities such as SNS were suspended.

Actually, if they overdid it, they could turn the controversy around by writing something like 'Then who do you think should receive the Rookie Award instead of Testar?'…

But if Park Moondae got caught, it would be a real scandal.

'I'll just have to finish the stage properly.'

Eventually, my mind returned to practice. I accepted the conclusion with a sigh.

"One more time."

"Yes."

And after a while, the atmosphere of the practice became grim.

'They've looked everywhere.'

Apparently, the controversial aggressive articles had spread quite a bit. I had seen the fans lamenting.

Thanks to this, the momentum to show it up to them was almost at the level of Idol Inc's team.

Ryu Chungwoo, who was almost exhausted, muttered as if he was grasping for facts that he already knew.

"What we're practicing now… Is it for SBC?"

“That’s right.”

Listening to Kim Raebin’s answer, Bae Sejin muttered with a pale face.

“…I think this is the hardest.”

“That’s right! It’s fun!”

“…”

Bae Sejin looked at Cha Eugene’s cheerful face for a moment with an expression that said he wanted to hit him at least once.

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and sort out the situation.

“Alright. Let’s work hard and show it to them.”

“Y-Yes!”

“Let’s all do our best~”

Perhaps because the agency was aware of any additional controversies, the external schedule in November was slightly reduced, so the practice time increased a bit.

Therefore, the year-end award season arrived only after preparations for various awards stages were completed.

The first award ceremony was ToneA.

* * *

ToneA. It was the largest global music award in Asia hosted by T1.

This meant that it was an award ceremony hosted by a parent company that wholeheartedly supported Testar.

Of course, Testar won the prize because of its grades.

“The winner is… Testar! Congratulations!”

I’d heard this 4 times today alone.

We won the Excellence Award, Popularity Award, and even the Music Video Award.

And of course… We also won the Rookie of the Year award.

“Thank you very much! In the future, I will know this award as an award given to me to not lose our original commitment, and I will be more careful and work harder.”

The speech for the Rookie of the Year Award was deliberately made by Keun Sejin. It was a matter that was already discussed with Ryu Chungwoo.

We talked to the company about the content and ended it in a way that wouldn’t be controversial, so at worst, we probably would just end up getting cursed at.

…However, as expected, my status abnormality wasn’t resolved.

‘I didn’t have expectations.’

Everyone knew that ToneA didn’t have much authority even if it claimed to be the largest in Asia.

Anyway, once the first awards ceremony ended safely, the members seemed to relax a little.

“Thank you for your hard work~”

However, even though we won the award, the relief that ‘we made it’ seemed to be greater than the joy.

‘It just burst out now so they’re having a hard time.’

It didn’t feel very good to miss the timing when we would most deeply feel the worth of our hard work for a year.

“Guys, you did a great job.”

“Hehe.”

“I-I’m glad it ended well.”

“If we judge it by ourselves, excluding other variables, I think we performed as good as we had prepared.”

There was a moment of silence at Kim Raebin’s words.

‘…I did work hard.’

The stage here took about eight minutes.

Tnet asked us to brag about how ‘Testar has released so many hit songs’, so we bundled the four songs into a medley.

Thanks to this, there were almost no additional movements, so the practice was relatively easy. There was no break in the middle, so the problem was that we had to come down the stage and find a respirator.

Still, we did it well without any mistakes, but the problem was… the camera.

I only monitored the second half, but I had no idea what the hell I was doing.

The screen was so dark that I couldn't concentrate well.

'I'm pissed off.'

Even data selling was fine, I hoped someone filmed it properly with a fixed camera. I would have to look it up on WeTube later.

"…Hm, I'm sure it was conveyed properly to those who were there."

"The cheers were good.~"

First of all, everyone tried to gloss over the camera issue because they couldn't criticize it in the hallway behind the stage.

I could put up with the disappointment because there were still a lot of stages left that I had prepared more carefully.

'…Let's just pick up my smartphone in the waiting room.'

I wanted to see if there were any other problems that popped up. I thought maybe it would end with getting cursed in one or two popular posts.

And when I went back to the waiting room, I met a face that was completely unexpected and unwelcome.

"Hello."

"Gosh! Sunbae-nim!"

"Hello!"

…It was Cheongryeo.

'A Grand Prize winner is standing at the door of a rookie's waiting room?'

It was like a protest for the person involved to see.

'Are you trying to make it impossible for me to avoid you?'

In any case, the members who were embarrassed by the unimaginable situation bowed their heads and poured out words of congratulations.

"Congratulations on winning the Grand Prize 2 times!"

"Congratulations!"

"Ah, thank you."

Cheongryeo received the greetings with a smile. Kim Raebin asked with his eyes flashing.

"Why do you visit our waiting room?"

"I want to congratulate and see the faces of my hubae."

Cheongryeo made eye contact with me.

"Congratulations on your Rookie Award. I'm sure it didn't mean much."

"…!"

"Yes?"

Cheongryeo added bashfully to Kim Raebin, who was a bit bewildered.

"Since you've won four awards, you are already too popular to be considered rookies. I look forward to your activities in the future."

"Ah, thank you!"

"Then, since I've seen your face, I'll be on my way. I have a schedule."

“Yes, have a safe trip!”

Cheongryeo nodded slightly and smiled.

“Good luck.”

Then he strode down the hallway and disappeared.

I clicked my tongue inwardly.

‘…He completely emphasized the Rookie of the Year Award.’

It was clear that he had similar conditions. Because he even mentioned that the ToneA Rookie Award was meaningless.

‘It’s uncomfortable.’

The aftertaste didn’t feel good because this information was passed on one-sidedly without expecting anything in return.

‘I might be able to make a deal using the list of status abnormalities I’ve suffered.’

As I started guessing, the other guys next to me chattered.

“Oh~ Moondae, did you make new connections through entertainment shows?”

“A-Are you guys… close?”

At Seon Ahyeon’s question, my face almost turned serious.

“…We’re just acquaintances.”

“T-Then, can I ask a question…!”

The last one was not from Seon Ahyeon, but from Kim Raebin who intervened in the conversation. It seemed he stuttered because of excessive excitement.

'Come to think of it, this guy often mentions VTIC.'

As I made an assumption that he was a fan, Kim Raebin, who soon came to his senses, said earnestly with a serious face.

"I'm really curious about the arrangement program VTIC sunbae-nims used for the title track of the last album…!"

"…"

This guy was more interested in the jetbap[1]Jetbap = steamed rice prepared for sacrifice in ancestral rites. I think Moondae is referring to Cheongryeo's peace offering (aka the song he had used to make a deal last time) than I was.

"I'll ask him when I get a chance."

"Thank you!"

Kim Raebin, who couldn't catch the meaning that such chances would never come, was happy. Well, at least one of us was happy.

'Let's check the audience's reaction.'

In the car on the way back to the practice room, I lightly browsed SNS and the community.

Still, public opinion hadn't deteriorated, and there were more congratulatory opinions than sarcastic ones.

'…The fans are holding back.'

In order not to get pounced, I could see that they were trying to ignore the provoking words as much as possible and push those texts away with congratulations.

This was because, if you got involved in an emotional battle, only the group with a clear identity would lose in the end.

Of course, their rebukes continued in their personal SNS account.

– In the end, all that's left is a record. Don't worry about the crap that will disappear after half a year. Just vote.

– Ah ㅅㅂ I have to beat all those bullshit, but I'm going to put up with it

– Rising. There are a lot of bastards who have tasted smashing, even the Valkyrie in the midst of this ㅋㅋㅋ I am going crazy

– ㄹㅊㅇ What's going on, all of this because of the unattractive muggle pick ㅇㅈㅅ They ruined the entire team and started fighting from the time the leader wore the armband.

From group fans to malicious individual fans, everyone was complaining out of exhaustion.

I felt a sense of debt.

'...I'd rather just not accept it.'

I felt a bit bitter that I had to wipe my mouth[2] Wipe one's mouth is a Korean expression. It means eating something alone and then wiping the mouth quickly so that no one else would notice. In other words, it is used when someone does something and acts as if nothing happens. in an attempt to avoid sudden death.

'Still, I don't think I'm going to die.'

Fortunately, since it hadn't been pushed back by public opinion, it seemed that this issue would continue to go up and down only at this level in the future, and it was likely to fade by the end of the awards ceremony.

'Even in ToneA, we only took what we deserved.'

I was a little worried that they would take care of us excessively, but they just wrapped it up appropriately, perhaps noticing the issues.

Public criticism didn't rise above the surface because it was the level of friendliness that would be shown to anyone in an award ceremony.

'It's a shame that I don't earn much from that stage.'

It seemed that waiting for the fancams would solve it to some extent. We still had the next performance left.

'It didn't work out, but there are times like this.'

When things calmed down, I should upload something that would relieve the fans' stress.

I sort out my mind and turned off my smartphone.

No, I was thinking of turning it off, but… I just saw the title of a post registered as the latest popular post in the community.

[From Tnet Entertainment, a rookie boy idol group who only had to clap while winning 4 awards]

"…"

I clicked on the title right away.

Then, image posts in the form of card news appeared.

*‘F*ck.’*

That bastard was working hard.

* * *

Cheongryeo looked down at his smartphone. There was a popular post about the Rookie of the Year Award that became a mess.

“I’m curious.”

“…Yes? About what?”

Cheongryeo didn’t respond to the member’s comment. He just put his SNS account on the screen.

‘What’s going to happen?’

Cheongryeo posted several photos taken today on SNS one after another with captions.

And in the meantime, he picked a picture and posted it as if it just passed by insignificantly.

==========

Hubaes working hard

Good luck at the end of the year

==========

And he pressed upload.

The fuse was lit.

- 1. Jetbap = steamed rice prepared for sacrifice in ancestral rites. I think Moondae is referring to Cheongryeo's peace offering (aka the song he had used to make a deal last time)

- 2. Wipe one's mouth is a Korean expression. It means eating something alone and then wiping the mouth quickly so that no one else would notice. In other words, it is used when someone does something and acts as if nothing happens.

CHAPTER 116

The card news-type posts consisted of large catchy fonts and images.

[Do you know Onyx?]

[Rookie idol group that debuted this year]

Below that, Onyx's records were attached. It was a record that a rookie idol, who was well-established with 80,000 copies in Initial Chodong and overseas performances, could achieve.

[However, Onyx can't expect any rookie awards this year.]

[This is because there is a group that has achieved unbelievable results as a rookie.]

An entire page was devoted to emphasizing the appearance, name, and performance of the award-winning 'Testar'.

And from the next page, there was a one-sided explanation of Testar.

[Testar is a group made in an entertainment show.]

It showed how heavily involved the broadcasting station was in <Idol Inc.> , there was even a talk about whether the program had a strong entertainment tone.

In addition, the controversial story of the writer's relatives and the editing were listed following the title of the article.

[The power of the entertainment department and mass media has influenced the popularity of the music industry.]

And without missing a beat, the expected question's defense page was also included.

[Q: Haven't there been a lot of idol auditions so far?]

[A: Audition 'Entertainment' is the problem.]

[The problem is that the agency's own audition is not aired, it's a 'full-fledged entertainment show' made by producers and writers of the entertainment department.]

[Q: Aren't there a lot of solo artists who debuted through audition entertainment shows?]

[A: It wasn't formed through the program, the format was to discover existing artists.]

[Q: Aren't there a lot of programs where you released songs and were active on entertainment shows?]

[A: They're not evaluated in the Rookie of the Year category.]

And along with pictograms, there were photos of rookie idols struggling.

[Rookie artists bumping into each other with their albums alone on an unfair platform]

Finally, an additional page was attached.

[This year's ToneA Awards Ceremony]

[Testar received four awards including the Rookie of the Year Award and four performances.]

[The other rookies didn't get a single award or a chance to showcase a single song.]

The image of other rookies clapping was inserted into the background.

[The large company that sponsored ToneA was the company that sponsored the entertainment show that created Testar.]

The card news ended with a quote from the best-selling book 'The Illusion of Fairness'.

This meant that they had taken care of the composition very faithfully by using images that people think were authoritative.

Moreover, the tone was sneakily turned over.

'...It was linked to the entertainment industry's infiltration of the music industry.'

Of course, when you came back to your sense, it was all just a bunch of crap.

This was because stage projects in entertainment were a one-time thing and it was intended to create episodes.

'On the other hand, <Idol Inc.> is an entertainment show that was launched to create an idol group from the beginning.'

The format was completely different.

Besides, this was an unfair place, to begin with.

The issue of having a different starting line in terms of attention and opportunities was already a chronic problem for people from large entertainment companies.

‘Testar isn’t the only one with the problem of being very special.’

However, the problem was that there were a lot of people who originally disapproved of Testar itself, and public opinion in the community was not in a good state due to the talk of fairness that had emerged from the relative issue.

In addition, the article didn’t say that Testar’s records were unfair, but it limited itself to the topic ‘Rookie of the Year Award’ to lower the sense of repulsion.

So, the words that wouldn’t have been accepted in the first place were easily accepted thanks to the ‘people who want to believe it’.

– It’s not that Testar kids did anything wrong, it’s just that the current method is weird. I agree

└That’s right, it seems that the power of entertainment broadcasting stations has grown too much in the music industry.

└Like this, Loviewers laughed at me for wishing 80,000 copies Onyx to win the Rookie of the Year Award ㅠ They were being too much

– I’m getting sick of it. Why the hell are you doing this?

└It’s true that entertainment suck ㅋㅋ Loviewers, don’t snap and read carefully first~

– What is this… <Idol Inc.> ended up getting attention when they just released their debut album, but now they’re doing well and getting good records.

.

└Isn’ it such a waste of the Rookie Award?

-? But all of the audition programs are made by PDs and writers from entertainment departments? It’s not just Idol Inc

└Name one idol audition that pulled as much aggro as Idol Inc

Thanks to this, there was a commotion in the comments between those who sympathized and those who asked them to stop speaking nonsense.

The more opinions were divided in extreme ways, the more popular it became.

*‘F*ck this, really.’*

This was definitely not made by Onyx fans.

There were about 10 times the weight class difference between them and Testar, so they couldn’t get cocky.

This was made by a bunch of guys who just wanted to screw up Testar.

‘You’re going this far?’

Making card news was not an ordinary effort. Not to mention the diligence in posting on all kinds of social media and communities at the same time.

I don’t know how much hatred I had to keep to be able to do something like this. If it were me, I would just not watch it.

Honestly, it was a bit… creepy.

‘Don’t tell me, I can’t get the Rookie Award because of this… ’

No, that was too much.

'They can take it away only when it grows big enough to be on the news.'

At an awards ceremony of any size, it would be impossible to not give something like this to the original recipient.

*'Wishing to sh*t on Testar's image. Wishing the fans to leave when they get tired.'*

My mind went cold.

'…Should I use a more extreme method?'

I put it on hold because I was afraid that innocent people would be involved, but now the people pretending to be fans were more of a problem than those guys.

And I couldn't afford to worry about it for too long.

Because there were more crazy articles coming up.

==========

[It's Cheongryeo's Insta, look at this?]

: These are the photos from T1A award ceremony, and there is Onyx.

(Cheongryeo's Insta screenshot)

Good luck with the end of the year;

Am I the only one who felt the signal?

==========

The comments were filled with Vtic fans pushing them away, telling them not to talk nonsense, but in fact, the article ended as soon as it was posted.

That article was a countdown sentence.

'Why is this crap again?'

It was obviously posted on purpose. Adjusting the water level to an easily excused line was not a skill that had been used once or twice.

'What are you thinking, you bastard?'

I opened the text message app in a fit of rage…, then I turned it off the next moment.

'Let's not react.'

It would be burdensome if that bastard added something more, anyway.

There was no way that the fans would like to meddle in such a sensitive matter. They might get pounced on later on.

'He's just trying to pick a fight with me.'

He was saying that I should cooperatively reveal everything I hid because he could totally screw me up.

Even if I contacted him now, there was a high possibility that I would suffer losses due to my anger.

'…Solve this issue and make a contact with a clear mind.'

I blocked Cheongryeo. In other words, I was pissed off and blocked him from contacting me.

But I would have to figure out a way to deal with this bastard in the near future.

'Let's deal with this first.'

I called out the members who were unbothered because they hadn't seen the SNS. Now, the guys who were getting ready to sleep were gathered in the living room with puzzled faces.

"Y-You called everyone…"

"Ah, did you prepare any presents to commemorate the first awards ceremony? I'll take the biggest one. Thanks."

"Taking advantage of the prejudice that the big one is the best gift, the probability that a small gift is a good gift…"

"…It's not about gifts."

"Yes."

The tension suddenly melted away.

I suggested while looking at Ryu Chungwoo, the only one who looked slightly serious.

"About our SBC performance."

"Hn?"

"Why don't we change the arrangement?"

Everyone was perplexed.

"Now?"

“Only one song from the special performance.”

“…Is there a reason?”

Bae Sejin wanted to refuse right away, but his face was saying he would listen to what I had to say.

After thinking about it, I explained the situation.

I couldn’t talk without convincing them and I thought they would know by tomorrow at the latest anyway.

“Actually, on the Internet right now…”

As the explanation continued, the faces of the members hardened.

“It reminds me of Idol Inc.”

“I guess people are like that. Um… But why do you want to change the arrangement?”

In response to Keun Sejin’s question, I answered without hesitation.

“To give a shock.”

And I told them which direction I wanted to change.

“…!”

The members seemed a bit taken aback.

“I-Is-Isn’t it a little… too much?”

“I’m a little worried, too.”

But Keun Sejin voted yes.

“I think I have to be really prepared, but um~ I agree for now.”

“…!”

At this point, the persuasion was, in fact, halfway done.

“I think this is the most effective response to the current situation. Does anyone dislike it?”

“…”

Bae Sejin seemed to be glaring at Keun Sejin, but when his eyes met mine, his spirits dampened.

“…?”

No, if you don’t like it, I thought I’d listen to your opinion first.

However, there was no objection. Even Ryu Chungwoo just nodded.

“Let’s do it. I can’t even think about other people’s positions right now.”

“Hyung…”

Ryu Chungwoo seemed to be concerned about the public opinion that had been twisted up because of him.

“They are people like that. Even if it wasn’t for hyung, they would have brought up other issues, so don’t worry about it.”

Of course, let’s not tell the truth that the other issues wouldn’t have been at this timing.

Surprisingly, Seon Ahyeon responded.

"…T-That's right. T-Those people don't change, s-so don't waste your energy on them…!"

Maybe he wanted to convey what he had heard during his consultation.

"Oh~ Ahyeon, wonderful words!"

"Nice words!"

"N-No…"

Seon Ahyeon's face reddened. Ryu Chungwoo smiled and nodded.

"I'll do that. Thank you."

Bae Sejin looked at the warm atmosphere and then spoke out while shrinking.

"…Then we'll change the arrangement like this…"

"Change it!"

"Does anyone have objection~?"

No one gave an opinion on Cha Eugene's lead and Keun Sejin's re-confirmation.

And Bae Sejin seemed to have given up.

In the fight between the ego that wanted to agree and the body that wanted to oppose it, the former seemed to have won.

"It will be a forced march. I will do my best."

"Let's do our best~"

So we agreed to change the arrangement.

And the next day, at the end of the meeting at the company, a confirmation came down. Thanks to that, we received the song without delay and started practicing again.

“I suppose it can’t be helped.”

Kim Raebin looked a little regretful that he couldn’t be the one who make the song, but he understood the situation.

And within a little over a week, we fixed the movement and choreography.

In the meantime, it seemed all sorts of talks had come out on the Internet as expected. The articles also seemed to have been published.

I even heard that Onyx won a Rookie of the Year Award at a small awards ceremony that Testar didn’t attend.

[Onyx tearfully won the Rookie of the Year award at the ‘Seoul’s Choice Awards’]

It was 100% done by voting, and it seemed each community broadcasted it live and drove the vote with words like ‘realization of justice’.

In addition, I heard that VTIC fans secretly voted together while voting for the Grand Prize.

It didn’t matter if it was just an awards ceremony like that, but the problem was that the fans’ exhaustion accelerated and the aggro was excited.

When the fans participated in the vote, they set up frames such as ‘Do you want to take away this Rookie Award when Testar doesn’t even

appear?’.

Thanks to that, the preparation for the stage went very smoothly. Some of the members who were a bit conflicted about the stage format also had their eyes lit up.

And the day of SBC Music Awards Festival.

A very decisive event happened.

“Hello~”

“Hello!”

When we ran into Onyx and greeted them with a smile and passed by, I heard the word.

“…Didn’t they just say something about the realization of justice?”

“I heard it, too.”

“M-Me too.”

…Honestly, it was a topic that they could talk about only when they were with themselves.

Well, of course, things must have felt good right now. They got an award, and their competitor was doomed.

But the problem was that we had guys with good ears here, so this side also heard it.

“Wow, I can’t wait to perform.”

“I feel the same.”

"…Me too."

Thanks to this, everyone was able to wait for the stage with excitement, abandoning all their internal conflicts.

Those guys get rid of our guilt and even bring us together, what a bunch of nice people.

* * *

SBC Music Awards Festival was usually aired on Christmas evenings, but this year it was pushed forward due to the operation of a special program.

Thanks to this, it was organized at an ambiguous time of Friday night in mid-December. It was the time when the drama was over.

– What's wrong with the date

– I thought it would be a drama special, but it's a random idol;

– Sbc only calls idols. It's no fun, throw away the ratings and only aim for WeTube

– Who will show up

– Wow, I don't know who they are

Of course, the majority were the people who waited for the first year-end music program this year.

However, thanks to the popular drama that ended, there were quite a few people who turned on SBC out of habit.

Indifferent remarks from non-fans were thrown into the comments.

– Badump

– Is there no special performance this year?

– Solier is so pretty.

– It seems there are kids worth seeing in part 2

– Wasn't there a rookie's special stage in Part 1? I think I saw a commercial

– Carol arrangements are boring. It's strange that they do that every year

– Does Vtic only appear in part 3?

– I'm going to go watch something else ㅅㄱ

People chattered and skipped through the first part.

Except for the opening, it was mostly the rookies in their 3rd year or groups that were just starting to make their name known.

Then, a short VCR appeared.

[KPOP Rookies' performance!]

[Testar Park Moondae: Let's experience each other's performances by drawing lots.]

[Solier Minjung: Wow! I think it's going to be fun!]

[Onix Pox: There's a song I really want to try!]

– I think this is the special performance in part 1

– Testar isn’t supposed to be in this grade right?

– I guess they’re a ‘rookie’ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– I think public TV is definitely a bit salty for cable people

– Right! Testar came from a cable variety show~

– I only know Testar’s song…

– Are there 5 teams? Please don’t show them whole. It’s boring.

No matter what the live comments say, The VCR ended with the last caption after drawing lots and showing the screaming groups.

[What will their performance be like?]

And the song performances that felt like they had been heard somewhere continued.

Everyone chose one song that would likely make a big hit.

– Still, I know the chorus part.

– You’re doing useless things, why don’t you just do a cover of a famous rock?

– It seems that the hearts of those caught in Testar’s song have been swept awayㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Wouldn’t it be fun if someone does it better than Testar?

– Hu-uh It’s not about entertainment, it’s about ‘skills’ You shouldn’t just say things like that.

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

While people were laughing and chatting, the three teams entered after a short performance.

And a caption appeared under the dark stage.

[Testar – The one who enjoys (Onyx)]

– Heol! Testar is here!

– Of all the songs, it's Onyx's ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Looks like those two picked each other ㅋㅋㅋ

– What a joke of fate

– I think it's SBC's fabrication

– Ah, I'm curious ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

However, when the introduction began after a short prelude, the comments were a little taken aback.

– They didn't arrange it?

Right.

Testar performed Onyx's debut song.

Without touching anything, just like the original song.

CHAPTER 117

Loud sirens rang out over the dark stage.

Wee-oww Wee-oww Wee-oww

And with a cheerful burst of a glass breaking, the sound of the siren became a beat melody.

[HaHaHa!]

As soon as the sound of a child's laughter entered the sampling, the dazzling lights came on, revealing the seven members sitting on the stage.

They were Testar in glossy black zip-up hoodies.

Various emoticons painted in white and red were randomly covering the zip-up.

Then, Cha Eugene jumped out like lightning and the intro began.

[Look here~]

At the child's narration, Cha Eugene placed his hand in a V form on his chin.

[Every time I sing it

My hands are burning on the mic

Today, I'll show you the real thing

Please wish me good luck]

Cha Eugene playfully showed his fangs and snapped the melody to the beat.

Joining the formation two by two in line with Cha Eugene's movement, Testar clapped their hands and performed a rough group dance.

It showed a relaxed and spirited twist.

Cha Eugene gestured at the camera as Testar grabbed him by the shoulder and dragged him behind them.

[Groaning (that's a disease too)

Mm, such an obvious statement

Don't think about useless things

A lot of cheers for me

Shout out Shout out loud]

When Keun Sejin winked and raised his hand, the two members on both of his sides crossed the air with martial arts-like movements.

Then each of them gave a light wink to the currently running camera and jumped in.

[Shout out to me

Gratitude only takes an all-at-once payment]

The comments were filled with delighted bewilderment.

Those who knew the original song and those who didn't know were mixed together, and each expressed their impression, but there was only one conclusion.

'It's fun.'

– It's so much fun.

– Wow nice

– Right, this is how it's fun to watch

– Is their class different? I feel like they're little different from the other ones

– Look at them searching for the camera;;

– This was supposed to be a bullying, but that f*cker Cha Eugene did well

– They're really good?

– Heol, they really didn't do any arrangements.

– The original song's performance was so cringy… Heol… Why is it so good? Even the outfits are almost the same.

Leaving behind the comments that were pouring out in excitement, the stage continued.

Whoosh.

Park Moondae, who was grabbed by the members and cut through the air, came to the front of the stage and held a hand microphone.

[To pass here

There's an advance payment

Don't just go, sit here

Enjoy this performance]

The sound of the pre-chorus, which suddenly rose, came out of Park Moondae's mouth as if it was nothing.

At that moment, the formation changed and the members circled the floor and got up.

They took turns taking camera shots from the side of Park Moondae's face as if they were intervening, and then moved away as if they were being pushed out.

They all looked like fun pranksters, but somehow it was showing now.

Glaring at the members one by one, Park Moondae smiled and pointed his finger at the camera.

[Let only those who enjoy it

Shout out to me

Take an all-at-once payment only]

It was a high-pitched sound that cooly scratched your neck.

A clear voice resonated over the deliberately small and obvious AR, enhancing the taste of live music.

– He plays really well.

– I can't be quiet about this

– Park Moondae's singing is so f*cking good, for real

– Ha, so refreshing.

– I think AR was crushed to death by the volume ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– They didn't rearrange it, right? What's this? Why does it seem like there's such a big difference?

– It's just like their song.

In the meantime, the highlight of the song was unfolding on the stage.

[Shout out to me]

[Shout out to me]

As the song was dropped, the siren sound was transformed into a Middle Eastern riff melody on top of the slightly relaxed and heavy beat, flowing splendidly and loudly.

It was a strong chorus.

[Enjoying it is the way to live

Shout out to me]

There were many lingering beats and complicated leg movements, followed by jumping choreography.

Not forgetting to get into the rhythm and livening up the atmosphere, the members had fun while smoothing out difficult movements.

The excited bad boy aura was splashed all over the stage.

And people realized.

– Right, they're chosen because they are that good ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Their performance skills are amazing.

– It's so refreshing.

– Yes, this is it. This is the taste.

– I really can't take my eyes off it

People who watched <Idol Inc.> but were not interested enough to watch music shows or clips, watched Testar's performance again due to the special end-of-the-year program on public TV.

And the fact that the first stage happened to be a song by another rumored rookie made people gossip more.

– Does anyone know the original performance of this song? I just thought it was a great song.

– Testar didn't arrange it, right? Does the original song feel like this?

Then, at the choreography climax, something was shaking on the hoodies of the members who were jumping up and shaking their heads.

It was an animal ear.

Testar's hoodie had a piece of cloth similar to the animal ears that symbolized each of them on the head of the hood.

It flapped around in response to the intense chorus choreography, revealing its shape and showing off its presence.

– Heol, What's that

– Animal ears ㅠㅠ There are ears on the hood.

– Look at the idea.

– So f*cking cute

– Ah, right, idols should taste like this

– Cute animal gangster…?

– Is this Testar's new song? Why is it coming out in part 1?

The overly strong and burdensome concept was slightly neutralized with cuteness mixed at the end.

[HaHaHa!]

And the climax at the end of the song continued.

It was a part where the choreography became faster and faster by putting different movements one by one in the chorus without vocal parts, in the middle of the choreography.

The song ended with the impressive image of Testar not being able to control themselves whenever a solo shot came in while performing the group dance.

[Shout out to me]

The cut ended with Kim Raebin sitting at the center yawning and wiping his mouth with the back of his hand.

And the camera was switched to broadcast Onyx's stage, but in the comments, the response to Testar's stage was exploding.

– Crazy.

– They're good, I don't know what else to say

– What’s this, why is it so short?

– They cut it off in the first verse. I guess it’s because it’s a special stage ㅠ

– The kids before only did the first verse, but look at people’s reactions ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– This isn’t Testar’s song, is it?

– I’ll go watch Onyx

– I thought about leaving comments, but I forgot because I was looking at the screen.

And the moment Onyx’s stage was broadcasted, the atmosphere became ambiguous.

Onyx also chose Testar’s debut song, ‘Magical Boy’, but… the stage was too bland.

– Mmm

– They’re not well-prepared

– I can’t stand it.

– How much did they lower the key for Magical Boy? The song has no charm at all.

– It seems to be lip sync? Ah, is the AR too big?

– I don’t know. It’s no funㅠㅠ

People’s excitement cooled down in an instant.

At the same time, more and more people were looking for the original performance of Onyx's song performed by Testar.

The moment they saw Onyx's next stage, they felt it.

'Is Testar's much better than Onyx's performance of the original song?'

Most of the people who watched Onyx's <The One Who Enjoys> performance lamented, while some of them were posting and screaming.

* * *

As soon as the first part of the Music Awards Festival ended, clips of the special stage were uploaded on various communities and SNS.

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[SBC Rookies Special Stage]

: I also attached the original performance!

(video) (video)

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And in an instant, the comments were filled with talks about Testar and Onyx.

These were the words that were already spoken throughout the special stage.

The response to the complete one-on-one match without any arrangements was stark.

– Hey, what happened? Testar's is better than Onyx's performance of their own song

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Ah, shareholders have a good eye! All that sh*t about being an entertainment show was f*cking bullshitㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– The huge difference in their skills is so embarrassing

– Testar shouldn't have a lot of time to practice, wow…

– Why do you put it like that? The person who wrote this article is so cruelㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– There was a reason why Idol Inc was f*king successful. The stage was inevitably successful because these punks were thereㅋㅋㅋ

Moreover, it wasn't just a difference in skills. There was a deep difference in the interpretation of the song.

Onyx's debut song, <The One Who Enjoys>, was a powerful hip-hop-style song that was made for an intense performance.

Usually, rookies practiced their debut songs for several months if the period was short or more than half a year if the period was long.

And, naturally, Onyx practiced this song with a sense of solemnity and tension at the thought of just debuting.

It wasn't an unsuitable emotion for the song, so it was easily skipped over, but the feeling of the song was more playful and violent than that, closer to a high-spirited feeling.

And Testar interpreted the song exactly that way.

– Testar's expressiveness is real? They're the ones who'd been through the crazy Idol Inc mayhem

– I'm sorry to say this, but… To be honest, Testar's performance feels more like the original song…

└That's why Onyx's stage feels like they just covered a song of a respected senior ㅋㅋ

└They didn't bring out the chewy taste of the original song, but I feel like I'm seeing friends who are working hard

└Perfect description ㅋㅋㅋ

Because Onyx's fandom layer was shallow, people were more willing to express their appreciation.

Of course, not all the people who were obsessed with Testar's controversy disappeared with just one performance.

– Ugh, rushing in here not knowing how to give up…

– Still, how come you don't know that it's unfair for an entertainment project group to receive the rookie award?

– It's embarrassing to bite and drag down a rookie like this ㅠ

– No matter how hard the fans try, muggles will feel uncomfortable about Testar.

However, when an absolute advantage came out from openly comparing them like this, the previous discourse was bound to become ridiculous.

In this rare situation where the winner and loser were obvious, entertained people gathered around and laughed at the aggro.

– Hey, muggles have eyes. You guys are funny ㅋㅋㅋ

– They cut off their rank insignia and won. That's enough. It's ugly ㅋㅋㅋ

– Aren't you guys the ones who swarm in ㅋㅋㅋ

– Yes, I bet everything. I am not Testar's fan but Onyx's original song is sh*t~ Testar, take me in

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Hey, the one who did well should get it ㅋㅋ

– Now that I look at it, even if they debuted without Idol Inc, I think Testar would have won the Rookie Award ㅋ

└That's right. They even produced their debut album ㅋㅋㅋ

Then the direction changed a little.

– They're too much… Didn't they purposefully aim for this without the arrangement?

But this didn't work either.

└If it was done on purpose, isn't that even more embarrassing?

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋReallyㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└It's not that Testar is bad, it's that Onyx is just not good at it

└Someone who sees this might think that Testar broke Onyx's legs so that they couldn't perform ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Even if you sorted the comments on Onyx's original performance video by the latest order, it was filled with cries of people who came after watching the Music Awards Festival.

Testar's <The One Who Enjoys> official video hadn't been uploaded yet, so they were people who came to see chickens instead of pheasants.

– Ah, this isn't it… That… There's no leisure feeling of being nimble and naughty… I don't feel that vibeㅠㅠ

– Ah… You've worked hardㅠㅠ

– I like this version too! Cheer up!

– It feels like a stranger on the way to meet the hottest kid at school and pretend to know them

ㄴㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Your voice isn't cool… ㅅㄱ

Cruel comments from the general public, not the fans, clearly showed the public opinion.

It didn't have to be confirmed. It was Testar's K.O victory.

And the next day, Park Moondae received an unexpected congratulatory gift.

CHAPTER 118

The SBC Music Awards Festival was over.

Afterward, I had been sleeping in the car all morning due to schedule problems, but my condition had been the best in the past few months.

This was because the manager told me about all the current public opinion as soon as the broadcast was over.

– It's all flipped over!

The members' expressions at that time were worth seeing.

Anyway, after that, everyone seemed to have slept soundly even though they were in the car.

Thanks to this, I was able to tolerate the fact that I was the only one not staying in the dorm because the company called me this morning.

But I had no reason to be concerned about why they called me.

'Well, looking at their expression, it doesn't seem to be a bad thing.'

I wondered if I had a new personal schedule.

And as soon as I entered the back porch of the company building, I could see the reason they called me.

A lot of boxes were piled up so much that the small porch for the staff burst open.

All of them were carefully packaged with ribbons… They were gift boxes.

It was similar to the one I saw at the entrance of the dorm on my last holiday, but on a much larger scale.

‘Huh?’

Hold on.

One of the employees I was with laughed and said.

“Moondae-ssi, it’s your birthday present ~”

“…!”

…I see.

Today was December 15th.

It was Park Moondae’s birthday.

‘…I couldn’t even guess.’

I completely forgot about it because I lost my sense of time due to the endless repetition of schedules and practice.

I didn’t even notice it because I recently didn’t check SNS on purpose.

‘…It’s not even my birthday in the first place.’

No, even before I entered Park Moondae’s body… It was rare to have a special birthday.

‘I just cooked rice and ate it with expensive ingredients.’

Thanks to this, seeing the gift boxes that filled the two walls, my feet stiffened.

This is all for me?

“I think it would be difficult to leave it at the dorm… Moondae-ssi’s family home… Um…”

Perhaps recalling Park Moondae’s family history while talking, the employee rapidly pulled back.

And kindly corrected again.

“Should we put it in the company’s storage room for now? Electronic devices and luxury items will be sent to the dorm. You can go ahead and try it out.”

“…Did the people who brought this say anything?”

Looking at it closely, there were three or four different types of packaging, so it seemed they were put in separately.

‘At least one or two groups would have tried to deliver it directly… ’

“Ah, they used a professional delivery company. I got a call about the delivery the day before yesterday.”

The employee shrugged.

“And I think they requested to tell Moondae-ssi that he doesn’t have to verify them… Right. They said that.”

“…!”

Then I realized the situation.

'…They delivered it quietly on purpose.'

The day before yesterday, I was in the midst of stumbling down and betting on Testar's Rookie of the Year Award on the Internet.

If it hadn't been for the all-out war on SBC yesterday, of course, the situation would have been the same now.

In that atmosphere, they must have been worried that I would get in trouble again if I confirmed I had received such large gifts of support.

'They were conscious of that, so they couldn't even come to see me in person… '

It felt strange.

It was strange that there were people who cared and put in so much effort for someone who they couldn't even interact properly with.

The fact that the target was me was really… strange.

"Aren't you going to open it? Should we just move them to the storage room?"

"…Wait a minute."

Then I moved to approach the boxes.

I saw boxes packaged in the same wrapping paper over the printed frame of my photos and the ribbons tied to the brand shopping bags.

A tag was attached to each packaging ribbon.

"…"

Numerous clothes, electronic devices, and accessories were visible on each tag.

'...What should I do?'

I was almost overwhelmed. I didn't know what was the standard for the gifts that I should take to the dorm first.

'...First of all, it should be easy to verify, only have three pieces for each wrapping paper design... '

As I was contemplating, a tag caught my eye.

It was a tag attached to a box that was relatively smaller than others.

[Message book]

"..."

I hesitated, then lifted the box and unwrapped it.

A golden hardcover book that seemed to have been handcrafted was revealed.

<You came down to my heart like a shooting star>

When I opened the hardcover book, edited sentences were revealed in a neat design.

– I knew it the moment I saw the performance of <To a New World>. That fellow is my idol! ㅎㅎ

I always do my best and cheer for Moondae who continues to grow. But even if you don't grow, that's okay. I will always support Moondae's happiness♡

– My star that I want to see for a long time

– My insomnia disappeared after I met Moondae! Just looking at you makes me happy and thinking about you makes my heart flutter… I love you forever

– I'm thankful and sorry for Moondae who always cares about his fans no matter what ㅠㅠ Let's do whatever we want to do. Moondae, it's fine to do that!

Between the long lines of text, restrained sentences sprung out. It seemed that even a refined heart was squeezed out.

– Noona still hasn't forgotten Tibetan fox Moondae… I love Puppy Moondae, but I also love Tibetan Moondae ㅠ

"Haha."

I couldn't hold back my laughter.

Really… They were unusual people. It was unbelievable kindness.

Of course, emotions didn't last forever. These people also use words like 'always, for a long time, forever', but they knew that it was impossible for them as long as they were human.

But at this moment, I felt overwhelmed just by the fact that there were people who thought of me like that somewhere.

I wanted to do something.

"…"

"Moondae-ssi?"

"…Ah, I'm sorry."

I barely came to my senses. And I quickly packed some gift boxes.

As planned,… No, a little more than I planned.

“…Can you take them to the dorm?”

“I have a car. It’s all right.”

I was accompanied by the manager. By now, he must be buying drinks or smoking in the lobby in front of the building.

“Mm… I see. Have a safe trip home. Happy birthday!”

“Thank you.”

I headed to the parking lot with my hands full of presents.

The manager I met halfway freaked out.

“Did you bring it all by yourself?! You should have called me!”

“It’s fine. It was nearby.”

“Sigh… Anyway, congratulations on your presents. Happy birthday. Can I buy you coffee?”

“Next time.”

“Oh, you’re not refusing.”

I just laughed. I felt light-headed as if there was a whirlwind in my head.

“Enter safely~”

“Yes, thank you.”

I parted with the manager in front of the dorm. Then, I packed up my presents and went up to the dorm.

And the moment I got off the elevator.

I smelled a strange scent in front of the door.

"…?"

Isn't this the smell of something burning?

'No way.'

I piled up the presents on one side of the hallway and immediately unlocked the front door.

Then, after opening the fire hydrant, I opened the door.

"…?!"

"No!"

…And I witnessed Cha Eugene and Seon Ahyeon running through the living room with a pot.

Smoke was rising from the pot.

I asked with difficulty.

"…What are you doing?"

"M-Moondae! I-It's nothing…"

"Chicken soup for the soul!"

Cha Eugene shouted and took the pot back to the kitchen and started running away.

A terrible silence began to trickle from Seon Ahyeon, who was unexpectedly left in the living room.

"…"

"…"

"…B-Birthday… C-Congratulations."

"Thank you."

I'm grateful for the congratulation, but I'd like to hear an explanation of what the hell is going on.

* * *

"…Birthday present?"

"Yes!"

"N-No… I-I have a separate gift! T-That one was just to say thank you…"

"I have more presents, too."

Listening to Cha Eugene and Seon Ahyeon talking, nothing was sorted out.

It seemed those two couldn't communicate well between themselves either.

The other members, who instantly woke up in the middle of the pot commotion, tried to clean it up.

“So, since it’s Moondae’s birthday and you guys have time in the morning, you were thinking of making something delicious, right?”

“Yes!”

“…With that number of people?”

As Bae Sejin quietly muttered to himself, Seon Ahyeon lowered his head with a gloomy face.

“T-The recipe is easy to understand… I-I thought I could do it.”

“…Is this a sure recipe?”

Cha Eugene happily answered Bae Sejin’s question full of doubts.

“It’s my mom’s recipe! Chicken soup!”

“…!”

With shaking pupils, Bae Sejin hurriedly added.

“That… Even if the recipe is great, it might be hard for beginners.”

“Try again!”

“Wait, sit down.”

I sat back Cha Eugene, who was about to get up. And I remembered the pot I saw in the kitchen.

‘…It was burning black.’

In addition, judging from the cutting board and the sink, it seemed that the cooking process itself was not normal.

“Come to think of it, didn’t you say you’re good at cooking, Eugene~?”

“I am good at grilling. It’s my first time boiling food…”

“Geez.”

There was no gag. Keun Sejin clicked his tongue and waved his hand when he made eye contact with me.

“Oh, happy birthday, Moondae~ I sent you a gifticon.”

“…Chicken?”

“Chicken. Two of them at that.”

I got back exactly what I gave him in August.

It was a result of a quick calculation.

“Thanks.”

“M-Me too! Wait a second…!”

Seon Ahyeon, who had been sitting like a crimimal, suddenly jumped up and stomped his feet, and headed to his room.

Then he brought a small, well-wrapped gift and handed it to me.

“H-Happy birthday!”

“Yeah… Thanks. Can I open it?”

“Y-Yes!”

When I opened it, there was a department store gift certificate inside.

This… It felt like I was extracting a friend's money.

However, Seon Ahyeon looked proud.

"I-I didn't have time to go shopping… I-It's better to see and choose for yourself!"

"…Um, right. Thank you. I'll go when I have time."

"Yes!"

Next time I went out… I should shop in moderation. It was a bit too much for a friend or a co-worker to receive.

'Come to think of it, I think he gave something expensive on Keun Sejin's birthday.'

He didn't have to do that, I wondered if I should say that at least once.

"Ah, I bought one, too."

There was nothing more unexpected than Seon Ahyeon's gift, but after that, I received two gifts unexpectedly.

First of all, Cha Eugene gave me a huge jar of jelly.

'You'll eat half of it.'

It was clear that he took it off of what he ordered.

And surprisingly, Bae Sejin gave me a hoodie, perhaps he was the type to remember other people's birthdays.

"I'll wear it well. Thank you, hyung."

"…Well, alright."

That was how the gift-giving ceremony ended.

To be honest, it was the first time in my life that I received so many congratulatory gifts on the same day.

'It feels strange.'

I took the box I received from the fans and moved it to my room along with the gifts I received from the members.

"I'm sorry I didn't prepare anything. I'll buy you a meal next time. What do you want to eat?"

"You don't have to be sorry, um, shall we eat whatever we want then?"

"Yes, let's do that."

It was normal not to know but I agreed to have a proper meal with Ryu Chungwoo who felt sorry for not knowing, then Kim Raebin shouted in a solemn voice next to him.

"I'm sorry I didn't know your birthday…!"

"…It's fine."

"There's a beat I recorded recently… If you use it as your solo song…!"

How can I make it into my own song?

…But let's accept it for now.

"Alright, I think it would be a good song. I'll check it out when we have time."

"Yes!"

Kim Raebin staggered into his room with a big sigh of relief as if he had relieved himself of a heavy burden.

"…"

He would be in big trouble if he keep this up, I should at least tell him later to not get too pressured.

I put the boxes next to the bed and lay down.

And after a long time, I turned on the data on my smartphone. Then the first message came in.

It was a gift from Keun Sejin.

[Gift from Keun Sejin]

: Presenting chicken 1.5kg

"…"

And a little later, Keun Sejin's message which was plastered with 'ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ' came in.

'This bastard, really.'

I reflexively smack the present.

[Do you want to die?]

An answer came immediately.

[Keun Sejin: ㅎI loathe it]

"…"

I got up from my seat and tried to run to Keun Sejin's room, but I held back.

That would be the reaction this bastard wanted.

Instead, let's strike calmly and ideally.

[You won't be able to upload photos in the future.]

[Keun Sejin: I am sorry]

As expected, this was the direct shot.

I turned off my phone and went to sleep.

As I closed my eyes, the shape of the gifts I received today and the sentences of the message book wandered around my head.

…Somehow, I felt like I would have a good dream in my sleep now.

* * *

But after a pleasant sleep, unwelcome news was waiting from the manager I met again.

"Moondae, I got a call for you."

"Yes? From who?"

The manager handed me his smartphone and mumbled with the shape of his mouth.

'V-tic Cheongryeo!'

That assh*ole.

CHAPTER 119

I couldn't figure out what the hell that crazy guy was thinking.

He posted sh*t on SNS, and within a few days, this nonsense was happening again.

'You call the company?'

I happened to be at the salon. Because I was preparing for my dinner schedule.

I could see Kim Raebin, who was getting his hair dried next to me, opened his eyes wide. It was clear that he had read through the shape of the manager's mouth.

It was a place full of staff, so I felt even more reluctant

'I don't know what they're going to say.'

Meanwhile, the hair designer who was holding my hair readily accelerated the situation.

"Take it, take it~ It's okay. I'm almost done."

Maybe they thought I was hesitating because I was afraid it'd get in the way of getting my hair done.

'I don't want to take it, but… '

I held back my sigh. Then I told the manager.

"…Can you tell him I'll contact him later?"

"Uh, he said you don't know his number? He changed his number and called you this way. Moondae, you don't answer numbers you don't know."

"…"

It was obvious why he had to call through the company when he could just text.

'He knows I blocked him.'

There was nothing I could do if he went this far.

It was also unpleasant to keep asking the manager to do something.

Let's finish it quickly.

"Yes, okay."

I got the smartphone from the manager and put it in my ear.

"I changed my phone number. This is Park Moondae."

– Ah, finally.

I heard a voice full of laughter.

Do I have to listen to that thing's laugh?

"I heard you've changed your number. I'll save this number."

– Yes. Go ahead and do that. Congratulations on the Rookie Award.

My hand holding the handle of the chair automatically tightened.

"…The awards ceremony is not over yet, so we don't know. Then…"

As soon as I was about to finish my words, Cheongryeo replied without giving me a break.

– It's practically confirmed. Well, aren't you wondering what's going to happen next?

I'm not curious, you bastard.

I didn't think I would get proper information even if I interacted with this guy anyway.

He backstabbed me and now he was trying to hook me in.

"Not really. Anyway, I'll save the number. I hope you safely finish your year-end activities, sunbae-nim."

It meant that I would hang up now.

–… Ah, it turns out like this.

Then, suddenly, his voice changed to a slightly awkward tone.

– Um, I think there's been a misunderstanding… I will never do anything that will harm my juniors. I have a line, too.

It sounded like a line.

"Is that so? I understand."

– We'll continue to meet during the year-end activities… Hmm, maybe I should explain it at that time. It's kind of hard to do it over the phone.

"It would be nice to have a chance to meet you. Then I'm sorry, but I have a schedule, so I'll hang up."

Cheongryeo replied jokingly.

– Okay. Don't accidentally block it this time.

"Yes. Then."

I quickly hung up the phone. If it was at the dorm, I would have said something, but I held back because I was at the salon.

Then I returned the phone to the manager.

"Here, hyung. Thank you."

"Okay~ Ah, I'll text you this person's number."

"…"

I couldn't curse out the kindness of the manager who didn't know the whole story. I held back my sigh and closed my eyes as I leaned against the chair.

'It's troublesome.'

At first, I wondered if I could take some kind of benefit, but this bastard was the worst kind of troll.

Besides, he seemed like a real crazy guy, I couldn't predict his sudden change of attitude

'As expected, stop loss[1]*A stop loss is* ***an action taken to limit investment losses.*** *is the answer.'*

Finish it quietly without provoking him.

After two years, the future I knew was over anyway. Then I would be no use to him, so he naturally would slip away.

Until then, it was enough that I didn't get involved and avoided the situation.

Testar was likely to be at the top tier by the time the next album came out, so if that guy didn't want to waste his position, he couldn't come out more blatantly than this time.

Aside from being insane, it seemed that he was quite obsessed with his status as an idol.

'Then we just need to stop building bad feelings like wanting to kill each other.'

Mm, I was originally going to throw him away because I was so angry, but once things were settled and I thought about it rationally, the risk was too high.

'There's no need to risk your life to catch the troll.'

I kept this as a backup plan just in case. I cleared my thoughts and opened my eyes.

And Kim Raebin, whose eyes were shining next to me, spoke up.

"…What about their arrangement program?"

"It's confidential."

"I see…"

I'm sorry, but I don't think the day will come when I ask that.

I threw a glucose candy to Kim Raebin, who was sullen.

* * *

After running through a few year-end events, the day for a new year-end stage soon arrived.

This time it was the KBC Song Festival.

Since only singers who were quite active this year were invited to the show, we received relatively better stage footage than at the other public TV channels…

The problem was elsewhere.

“It’s here!”

“Heol, that’s the commercial then! The artificial intelligence!”

“Oh, my gosh.”

…It was a commercial break between the first and second parts, and I could see the actual product of the three-month 350 million won advertisement.

On the screen, sitting in a set that seemed to be a white living room, Testar was shown holding different props.

For your information… they were lightsticks. In the form of a sparkling magic wand at that.

…I would like to make an excuse that I had no choice.

In any case, the advantage of the artificial intelligence assistant contracted for this advertisement was that it was small and detachable.

[Connect to an item that shows sensibility.]

[Your secretary who can understand its users, play a song you have in mind.]

Then, the screen suddenly illuminated a character-type artificial intelligence speaker with ambiguous eye color.

Cha Eugene laughed and tapped the speaker.

[I want to hear Airplane~]

Then, out of nowhere, the speaker began to let out a powerful low-pitched ‘Floating, floating Airplane’ sound.

[…?]

After the scene of surprised Cha Eugene, calm-faced Park Moondae popped out.

Park Moondae smiled as he waved his lightstick.

[Curiousy, play Airplane]

Then the audio was filled with Testar’s song ‘Airplane’.

On top of the clean BGM, the cut of the Testar members making gestures passed.

[Magical Boy Testar]

[Magical artificial intelligence assistant!]

…There, Park Moondae, who had a picture of dog ears on him out of the blue, pretended to be a puppy and shouted ‘Curious’, and the ad ended in an instant.

[Curious! Woof woof!]

And the waiting room was filled with laughter.

“Hahahahaha!!”

“Cough.”

This… No matter how much I thought about it, they were laughing out of relief for having avoided it.

“…”

I held back my sigh. Ryu Chungwoo, who was the first to stop laughing, cleared his throat and only then began comforting me.

“Ahem, I think it’s because you won first place, Moondae. Isn’t it nice that you have a lot of footage in the commercial?”

“T-That’s right…!”

“Right right~ Chungwoo hyung-nim said something good…”

Ah, is that so?

I nodded.

“I see. That’s true.”

“Right?”

“Yes. I can’t wait to see other versions.”

“…??”

“Other…?!”

Bae Sejin quietly told the truth to the astonished members.

"…This was written in the script as seven versions."

"…!"

For a while, whenever I watched TV, I would come to enjoy the thrill of Russian roulette.

The members' faces were filled with tension, perhaps thinking of their own version.

Well, there wasn't much time to worry. It was because our stage was near the end of part 2.

And this stage was important.

Because It was our first year-end performance since SBC.

'We have to drive a wedge into the public opinion that has turned around.'

If we looked clumsy, it was inevitable that words like 'I don't know Testar's skills… They must have worked hard only on the special stage' would come out.

We had to do well here.

Thanks to this, these guys quickly fell into a different sense of tension.

And just before going on stage, we gathered together and even put in spirit.

"Ah, Testar will show you something today!"

"Let's go!"

I wondered if we had to use this phrase, but… Well, the atmosphere was alive, so it was fine.

Testar rode the lift and went up to the stage.

Waaaaaaa!

All kinds of lights rippled in the audience.

It still hadn't quite hit me that each of those lights was a person.

Still, there was one lightstick that stood out. As expected, it was Testar's lightstick.

Because its luminous power was extraordinary.

'It looks like a flashlight between the fireflies.'

Anyway, it was nice to be able to recognize them right away. It was a live broadcast, so we couldn't do anything special, but I could say hello over there when I entered.

In the meantime, the admission intro was over.

I walked out to the middle and took a seat.

Then, the prelude to 'Magical Boy', which was arranged for the end-of-year stage, began to play.

It was the live orchestra version.

To the live violin melody from below the stage, I started the intro.

"I think of you whom I met tomorrow all day long, dreaming a dream as blue as daytime-"

The ensemble of strings and wind instruments filled the hall with splendor.

It was a complete live concert in real-time.

It meant that in an attempt to save the live atmosphere, they didn't install any AR.

'I can relax because I sing the intro.'

If you couldn't match the pitch and beat when you entered, it would be a catastrophe. It was right for the person with the lowest probability of failure to take charge.

And after that, everyone performed live properly, so it had been stable.

"Cast a spell"

"Make a wish come true, true, true~"

Some modern dance moves were mixed into the choreography to match the splendid performance. It became more like an epic fantasy rather than a dream, but it was nice in its own way.

I was embarrassed because the outfit was too loose, but the people seemed to love it.

'Seon Ahyeon is flying.'

He looked more excited than usual because he was the best person to receive this concept. Even in the dance break part, where only the violin solo and percussion were left, the artistry remained.

And it was the part where the song naturally went over to the chorus of 'Airplane'.

– Airplane

Screech-!

‘The in-ear, really.’

A sound like a chalkboard scraping rang out of my ears.

A device attached to prevent missing the beat from shouts or echoes ended up hindering the concentration.

Scree scree screech!

…Even if there were a few times in the past when the volume was too loud or I couldn’t hear anything, this was the first time I had this mess.

‘I am going crazy.’

I couldn’t stand it any longer and roughly pulled out the in-ear aside with the accompaniment. It turned out to be a transmission error as I saw several members doing the same thing next to me.

‘The public TVs run really well at the end of the year.’

But something even more crazy happened next.

During the lying-down choreography, the in-ear that Bae Sejin chose slipped down and fell on the stage.

It was clear that the person fastening it had made a mistake.

‘…I’ll kick it with my feet at the next part.’

However, at that moment, Seon Ahyeon, who was coming to the center while changing his route, stepped the wrong line and slipped on it.

With his head to the floor, at that!

“…!”

Reflexively, I grabbed Seon Ahyeon's back.

And I made eye contact with Ryu Chungwoo, who did the same thing on the other side.

'Stand him up and return right away.'

This kind of thing couldn't be helped.

The situation happened in an instant and the judgment was over in an instant.

However, just as I was about to put in strength to my hand, Seon Ahyeon kicked his feet as he slipped and give his body a rebound.

"…!"

Using inertia, Seon Ahyeon stretched both his legs and did elegant backflips with his hands resting on me and Ryu Chungwoo who grabbed his back.

And landing like a painting, he sang his own part.

"…fly high, I hope my flying heart will become a star that shines beyond the Milky Way."

"…!"

Contrary to my shock, the modified choreography came out of my body as practiced. It was a real relief.

When the last verse continued, the members naturally returned to their original movements.

Bae Sejin sang while pressing the microphone. His face and voice were fine, but his fingers were trembling faintly.

“…I want my hands to touch-“

The song ended with a choreography in which seven people standing in a circle gathered and spread their hands to the sky.

“…”

Aaaagh!

The camera’s on-air lights went off with cheers.

And after the lights were turned off, expressions as though they were being soaked in cold sweat began to appear on the members’ faces.

‘…Has it been settled?’

First of all, the stage…, no, shouldn’t we look at Seon Ahyeon’s condition first?

‘What kind of crazy guy do backflips while falling down there without practice?’

Wasn’t it a situation where your head could break if something went wrong?

However, due to the broadcast, there was no time to wander off here. We quickly waved our hands to the fans and got off the stage.

And without even having time to argue, I immediately faced the monitoring screen.

“…!”

- 1. A stop loss is **an action taken to limit investment losses.**

CHAPTER 120

Soon after, the part in question began to appear on the monitoring screen.

The scene where the members, including me, pulled out the in-ear music passed by.

'…I hope the slip-up isn't too noticeable.'

Seon Ahyeon did such a great job that I wondered if it could be called a remedy, but how the before and after pictures were captured was another matter.

But it was a useless worry.

"…!"

"Wow."

Seon Ahyeon doing backflips with the two people on both sides grabbing his back… It looked like a completely intentional performance.

'Is it a matter of skill level?'

It was unbelievable that he did it without practice.

The mid-air impression was so powerful that slipping ahead seemed to be part of the action.

The fact that the in-ear caught on my foot was hard to see due to the floor being so dark also played a part.

In addition, thanks to the filming that caught the entire choreography, it was hard to see our surprised expressions.

…Originally, the choreography for that part had to be stopped for a short time to get a close-up shot… Let's move on.

'Anyway, it did come out well.'

It was the best result. Keun Sejin whistled.

"Oh~ Ahyeon improvised~"

"So cool!"

Seon Ahyeon's face turned red.

"You're amazing! Did you prepare this move in advance in case something like this happened?"

"I-It's not like that. I-It's just… I-I thought I shouldn't fall, so I-I tried…!"

"That's amazing!"

Seon Ahyeon couldn't hide his joy as his face flushed from the continuous praises.

Hmm, let me start by complimenting him first.

"It looked as though it was intended to happen. I think it's cooler than our original choreography."

"…! I-It's not that great… T-Tthank you, I'll work harder…!"

"Applause~"

The members applauded.

As some of the staff around us laughed and pretended to follow along, Seon Ahyeon's face became distraught with embarrassment and pride.

'I'll let him enjoy it a little longer.'

I spent a little more time in the waiting room on purpose.

Then, in a lull, I talked to Seon Ahyeon again.

"Seon Ahyeon."

"Y-Yes?"

"Thank you for fixing things up earlier, but I don't think it will be okay for you to do this in the future."

Seon Ahyeon's face immediately turned blue.

"W-Why…"

He reacted more sensitively than I thought.

I thought it would be fine because he had just received a lot of compliments.

'I'll have to pick the right words.'

"Because you might get seriously hurt. I think improvising is too dangerous."

Then with a complicated expression, Ryu Chungwoo finally spoke up.

"Yes, Ahyeon, thank you very much, you did well, but… Let's be careful of the injury risks. If you hit your head first, you could be in big trouble."

It seemed he was concerned about this as well because he retired due to the aftereffects of his injury

“I-I’m sorry.”

Seon Ahyeon replied in a trembling voice. It seemed his feeling of self-doubt reared its ugly head as his excitement disappeared completely. Ryu Chungwoo was flustered.

“Don’t apologize! Ahyeon, I’m just saying this because I’m worried.”

Watching the situation, Keun Sejin intervened.

“Hmm~ Is that possible? Ahyeon was a dance major~ He must have checked his body himself. Don’t you think so?”

“…Y-Yes.”

I don’t think so.

Seon Ahyeon tended to overdo it in a self-destructive way when under pressure. This time, he probably did the coolest move without considering the risk because he thought he had to fix it at once.

But it was time to appease him. After thinking hard about it, I opened my mouth.

“…Of course this time, you did better than I imagined. I’m just saying this because I am worried… It’s good to be healthy for a long time.”

“……! Y-Yes! I-I’ll be careful!”

“Right.”

Fortunately, when Seon Ahyeon focused on the word ‘worried’, the code seemed to move him. It was fortunate that he was the type to be

impressed by trivial interpersonal relationships.

But this time, Bae Sejin apologized to his teammates with a dark face.

'What are you doing?'

"…I'm sorry. It happened because I dropped my in-ear."

I thought it would be like this.

"That's an accident! You must have been surprised, but you did well until the end, Sejin."

"That's right. The fastening was wrong so it was completely the realm of luck."

"Hyung, the in-ear was weird. It should be the in-ear who apologized, not you!"

"T-That's right! The in-ear should apologize…?"

Flustered, Seon Ahyeon tried to chime in but got caught up in Cha Eugene's grammatical errors.

Then, as if this flow annoyed him, Keun Sejin cut off the conversation.

"Haha, why don't we just congratulate you on your good work and move on? It ended well, but why is the atmosphere like this~"

He was right.

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and answered.

"Right, everyone did a great job today! Let's take care of ourselves and do well in the future. Five years is a long time."

“Uh-huh~ Hyung, aren’t we going to renew our contract together? Let’s do it for 10 years. 10 years~”

“Haha! Alright. Let’s do well for the next 10 years!”

“Yes!”

“Great!”

As Bae Sejin made startled noises, the team members ended the conversation with self-congratulations

And I was satisfied, too.

‘At any rate, the stage was good.’

I wanted to end the reaction on the internet with this.

Maybe they came to the conclusion that ‘Testar is also good at performing’.

With such expectations, I prepared to go out to the ending stage. It was a group stage with senior singers.

“This is my grandmother’s favorite song!”

Let’s just say that Kim Raebin was especially excited.

And after the broadcast was over, it was close to midnight.

The Internet public opinion that I checked after getting in the car was very interesting.

* * *

Immediately after Testar's KBC stage was over, the response was favorable just as expected by Park Moondae.

==========

[Just finished watching Testar's KBC Music Festival Magical Boy + Airplane Performance]

(Video)

==========

– Wow, live

– Are they good at this kind of concept?

– I gasped when I saw the mid-air flip

– It's really amazing, it's amazing that it is a live performance

– What's this, lip-sync?

└That's impossible, it's an orchestra live.

└What are you saying, you can play AR even with live accompaniment

└Ah, is that so? Then it could be lip-singing~ ㄱㅅㄱㅅ

└Cha Eugene deliberately entered one beat late in the middle of the rap. What nonsense are you saying? Leave the comment if you don't even watch the video ㅋㅋㅋ

└At this point, it seems that there is a Testar with the same name team in the haters' delusion

– They're good.

– Seon Ahyeon is doing a backflip, what is going on

– Of all the year-end arrangements, I think this is the best. I hope they release the song

– I knew that our Ahyeon is an angel, but I didn't know he would confirm it on public TV. Flying in the sky… It's official now.

└ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ Look at this silly comment

– Bae Sejin is always such a waste. Don't give him the ending scene

└Eh, didn't he do a good job this time?

└I was surprised that his live performance was better than I thought;

└It's because Sejin has very few parts, but there's never been a time when he couldn't sing his own partㅠㅠ

Attempts to aggravate in the middle were neatly blocked. It was completely solid.

However, what Park Moondae didn't expect was that the response to pulling out the in-ear was good.

Very much so.

– I'm really excited about the pulling out in-ear. They don't seem like a rookie, it feels professionalㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

– If you go into Sns now, you'll probably come up with 5,500,000,000 other correction memesㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

└ㄹ ㅇ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

– I think each member will watch itㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

└I’m not even a fan, but it’s already entering my account’s timeline… Park Moondae is handsome. I want to kidnap him

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅅㅂ

– Each of them has a slightly different vibe, so I keep watching it ㅋㅋ

└That’s right! ㅋㅋ

– My pick is the tall member who smiles as if he’s frowning. His eye smile is charming ㅋㅋ Can anyone tell me his name?

└Keun Sejin

└??? Name Keun-ssi exists…?

└Argh ㅋㅋㅋ It’s Lee Sejin! My kid is big and cute, so his nickname is Keun Sejin. Thank you for liking him! (Keun Sejin photo)

Most of the scenes where Testar members pulled out the in-ears were clearly captured by the camera, making it good content.

It was the chorus part of ‘Airplane’, so the members were equally filmed.

And the fans had a fun and comfortable time after a long time.

– KBS, please release a fancam of each member. Show the in-ear clip from different angles ㅠ

– You want to see a genius idol live that beats the pronunciation? Welcome to the show (video)

-I really like the KBC stage concept. It’s like a large-scale fairy tale, so there’s no separate narrative created if you attach it to SBC’s cool stage (comparison clip)

– There is a choreography where Moondae and Baese face each other and shake their heads when moving from Magical Boy to Airplane. Could this be a spoiler for the next album? (clip)

-Moondae KBC dressed from head-to-to-toe with confirmed birthday support… Oh, my gosh. (arranged photo)

Fans were delighted by the atmosphere where there were no quarrels or sarcastic remarks popping out.

It was around this time that the people watching the stage video found something strange.

It first started with a fan's chat account that edited video materials, etc.

– I found it while making a close-up gif, but it looked like Ahyeon was slipping before doing the backflip… Hold on.

└??

└Mister?

└What's this

– I watched it again… I think it's true. Ahyeon almost tripped because there was something under his feet, but Chungwoo and Moondae caught him (screenshot)

– Ahyeon almost slipped there, so he did a backflip to make up for it. If you look at this, both Chungwoo and Moondae's expressions are stiff. (screenshot)

└Crazy

└It was to fix an accident…?

In an instant, fans began to watch and analyze even the smallest parts of the video.

And soon they found the cause of the problem.

– Baese's in-ear fell off… Looks like the person in charge of hastening it made a mistake (screenshot of the floor)

└Oh, my God

└I'm going crazy.

└Ah, I'm addicted but I'm angry at the same time. What if the kids get hurt…

└Looking closely, Sejin's hands were shaking at the ending ah ㅠㅠㅠ

└Crazy, then Ahyeon's backflip is adlib?;; Can a person do that?

The news of the upset fans soon spread to the general entertainment community.

==========

[Testar's KBS stage accident]

: (summary link)

One-line summary: Everything from 'the In-ear to the ending' is the result of Testar handling the stage accidents

==========

– Heol

– What is this? Is this for real?

– It seems fitting…

– If they handled it so calmly that the fans just noticed it now, they're really amazing.

– How come there's a boy idol doing backflips to fix stage mistakes? It's probably just the choreography ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└It's not a mistake, it's an accident, and if you look at Testar's history since Idol Inc, they seem like they're good enough to do that

└A mistake is If they fell to the ground while pulling out their in-ear monitors. Please wake up from the fans' delusions ㅋㅋㅋ

└I am another fan passing by, but it's normal that the in-ears don't fall to the floor even if you take them off. It's a prop

– Are you sure it's in-ear monitors on the floor? It's just an optical illusion.

└It's really an in-ear here (screenshot picture with adjusted brightness)

└Heol it's real

└Crazy, he tripped because of that

– Looking at the kids' faces, I think it's true??

– Seon Ahyeon's backflip is like a part of the choreography, so it's true that he performed it calmly

└I vote for this too

└But the members were worried that he might fall, so they started by holding him down. It's hard to say that it was a coincidence.

SNS and related communities become a mess with opinions of ‘yes or no’.

– Aahh I’m going crazy, someone, hurry up and go ask Testar’s account ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– I can’t come to a conclusion ㅋㅋ

And interestingly, right after that, there was a real-time window to communicate with Testar.

==========

[Heol! Testar’s live is here]

: (link)

==========

It was Testar’s W Live.

The real-time communication for the first time in a long time since the Rookie Award controversy started with a grandiose title.

[Making Testar’s year-end dinner! Today’s menu: Chicken soup for the soul (cat emoticon)]

CHAPTER 121

Testar W Live for the first time in a long time began with the bright faces of Cha Eugene and Keun Sejin.

[Is it working?]

[Come out!]

After seeing the excited people starting to post comments, the two giggled and pulled back the camera.

Then, the professional attire worn by those two drew attentions.

Professional cooking attire… They were wearing aprons and latex gloves.

[Hello, Loviewer!]

[Hello!]

The two bowed their heads and checked the screen. Cha Eugene checked a Korean comment and waved his hand.

[Glad to see you, too!]

[Haha, me too! And the reason we turned on W Live today… It's to cook this chicken!]

As Keun Sejin quickly adjusted the camera, two immaculate raw chickens devoured the selfie filter and were briefly caught on camera.

[Now, do you see that chicken? Actually, that's the chicken I ordered as Moondae's birthday present!]

Despite the reaction full of question marks, Keun Sejin continued his next words naturally.

[We're going to cook today and serve delicious food for Moondae and the year-end party!]

[Chicken soup for the soul! Chicken soup!]

– What's that?

– You're going to cook that?

– Can you do it?ㅜㅜ

– Chicken soup for the soul wasn't just an adlibㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Despite the worried comments, the two laughed wholeheartedly.

[If it doesn't taste good, we'll eat it and Moondae and the members will order something delicious!]

[But we'll do it right this time!]

At Cha Eugene's unfounded confidence, the comments became more anxious.

– Call Moondae.

– Guys, I don't think this is right.

– It's cute but scary.

Those two, who were definitely at the top of the team in terms of strong interpersonal relationships and mentality, filtered out bad comments such as ‘no fun’ and ‘don’t be stupid┬’ and only accepted the fans’ reaction.

[Aha, Moondae hyung! Hyungs, come back soon!]

[That’s right~ They’re a bit late because of their schedule! We’re going to prepare the main dish first, and we’re going to make simple ones together!]

By the way, it was a lie.

The choreography was slightly modified, so they were late for an hour or two because they had to go into additional practice.

However, the two people who learned it the fastest asked for understanding and returned home early so that they could turn on W live according to the planned time.

But the rest of the members had no idea that these two would do a cooking content on W live…

[Let’s start!]

[The best!]

And the dishes from those two were stably ruined.

Not forgetting the experience of the burnt soup made with Seon Ahyeon last time, Cha Eugene controlled the fire quite well, but the problem broke out elsewhere.

[Wow! Next is… cumin!]

[Hmm? Cumin? Unfortunately, we don’t have such exotic spices in our dorm. Let’s add chili powder!]

[Great! Add honey, too!]

[Honey’s great!]

The two of them left a perfectly fine recipe and added strong ingredients however they wanted.

The comments were full of confusion, bewilderment, and laughter.

– Don’t

– Throw away the honey.

– Do you have chicken stock? Guys!ㅠㅠㅠ

– Yeah, delivery is good these days.

– The comments are going up so fast it made me dizzyㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

And as the fans expected, the result was an oddly-flavored chicken soup.

[Oh, done!]

[Let’s taste it…]

[…]

[…]

The two of them, who tasted it with excitement, looked speechless.

The comments were filled with people bursting out laughing.

The two smiled and nodded their heads with faces unique to those who had tasted ruined dishes.

Before the response saying it was a waste of food could come out, Keun Sejin blocked it sharply, pretending to be heartbroken

[Haha, we'll eat up this taste of defeat, so don't worry…]

[It's fine to eat.]

After checking the comments that were dried up or laughing, Keun Sejin shrugged and started communicating again.

[Let's order chicken first…]

And at that moment, the members returned with the sound of the front door opening.

[They're here!]

[Welcome!]

The moment Cha Eugene ran out, Keun Sejin made a gesture of placing his finger on his lips toward the camera.

Then, he quickly hid the pot and attempted to destroy the evidence.

Of course, there was no choice.

[What are you doing?]

[Huh? Haha! It's W Live~ Say hello to Moondae, Loviewers!]

[Ah.]

Park Moondae stopped the interrogation and lowered his face toward the screen.

[How have you been?]

In an instant, countless greetings passed by in the comments. Park Moondae smiled faintly and nodded.

[Yes, hello.]

[This is Moondae!]

[…]

It was an exquisite timing selection.

Park Moondae looked coldly at Keun Sejin, who burst out laughing after imitating his SNS speech habits.

Several members who were entering the kitchen hurriedly covered their mouths and lowered their heads to hold back their laughter.

‘This bastard, seriously.’

Unlike Park Moondae’s inner feelings, the comments were all positive.

Looking at the chat window plastered with ‘ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ’ and puppy emoticons, Moondae Park decided to put up with it.

‘The cost-effectiveness is good.’

And he decided to check the pot properly instead.

[Everyone, what did they do?]

Comments fluctuated with a cover that matched the atmosphere and a small number of taunts.

– We played together!

– Talk~

– We just talked

– I saw Eugene’s aegyoㅠㅠ Do an aegyo too, Moondae

– Cooking ㅋㅋㅋ

– Sejin was blublublub

– We didn’t do anything ㅋㅋ

Keun Sejin slickly slapped Park Moondae’s back and turned the angle.

[Us? We were having a casual conversation~ Right, Eugene?]

[That’s right!]

Cha Eugene added happily.

[And we cooked!]

[Ugh.]

Keun Sejin shrunk.

And Kim Raebin muttered with a blank face of confusion.

[He’s wearing an apron, but he didn’t expect to be caught…?]

The fans burst into laughter.

And Park Moondae immediately checked the pot that Keun Sejin had put down.

[…Is it chicken soup?]

[That's right.]

[It's the end of the year, and I was going to cook a chicken to celebrate your birthday… But I'll just give you chicken. We'll eat them all!]

[Eat!]

[…]

Park Moondae made a mysterious expression, then took a bite of the contents of the pot.

And smirked.

[You guys didn't follow Cha Eugene's mother recipe.]

[I tried to be creative.]

[I added honey.]

[Yeah, I thought so.]

Park Moondae clicked his tongue, and eventually grabbed the pot and put it back on the countertop.

Then he took out more ingredients from the fridge and started adding them to the pot.

[Oh, Moondae!]

[Please make it delicious!]

Keun Sejin and Cha Eugene grasped the situation and immediately entered a light worship mode.

[I-I'll help too…!]

[…Really? Then taste this.]

[Y-Yes!]

Not noticing Park Moondae's euphemistic rejection, Seon Ahyeon brought a spoon and tasted the soup wholeheartedly.

And his face became an expression full of question marks and exclamation marks alternately.

[I-It's good! B-But… That, the taste is…]

[Dakbokkeumtang[1]spicy braised chicken breast , right?]

[U-Uh! That's right!]

Indeed.

The chicken soup was nowhere to be found, and the food in the pot was dakbokkeumtang…!

The shocking statement also stirred up a commotion among fans. But the person who cooked it was nonchalant.

[Good.]

Park Moondae turned his head to the smartphone where the W live was broadcasted and explained it kindly.

[With chili powder and honey… I just added soy sauce and red pepper paste and turned it into Korean food. The soup is boiled down a lot, so I think this is right.]

[Heol, it's good! Everyone, this is really delicious. How did you do that? Park Moondae, what the hell?]

[Wow, the cooking is successful!]

[…]

Park Moondae temporarily gained the full trust of those two. Of course, he had never wished for it.

Still, making dinner with one pot was far from enough, so naturally, the members brought a fire plate and grilled pork belly.

[I can do it well this time!]

[I'm good at grilling meat.]

Surprisingly, Cha Eugene and Keun Sejin were really good at grilling meat, so they made up for the ruined whole dish smoothly.

[…It's delicious.]

[It really feels like a year-end party. It's great!]

The two eldest brothers who voluntarily cleaned up the kitchen also praised it.

And they both felt strange while eating the dish in the pot that was supposed to be chicken soup.

The pasta noodles that went in tasted a bit awkward, but when they thought of it as sujebi[2]Korean-style pasta soup , it felt fine again.

[Chicken soup…]

[You made that again.]

At the meaningful words, the comments cried out, asking for the meaning of ‘again’.

– There’s definitely a story.

– Explain the chicken soup and best friend vibe.

– ㅠㅠㅠShare it

[Ah, of course, I have to tell you!]

[It happened on the 15th, the day of Moondae hyung’s birthday…]

Thanks to this, Testar was able to cut out the parts that needed to be cut out appropriately and happily talk about Park Moondae’s birthday episode.

It was an atmosphere of real-time communication that was rare for Testar, who had many ups and downs. After hearing the rumor, even casual fans logged in, and viewers continued to gather.

And more than two and a half hours after it started, the members finally confirmed the ‘question’.

[A question… Oh, this. ‘KBC Ahyeon’s backflip, was it in the original choreography or was it an adlib?’]

In fact, this question had already been asked several times from the beginning.

However, Cha Eugene was extremely focused on cooking and couldn't read the long Korean comments that were passing by quickly.

And Keun Sejin deliberately pretended not to see it.

It was because answering when everyone was together had a bigger impact and the picture was even better when the capture was moving around.

Ryu Chungwoo, who was amused because of the atmosphere, replied with a smile.

[Ah, it was adlib! It was really amazing!]

[Amazing!]

[Ah, the details? At that time, there was a problem with our in-ears…]

Testar happily explained the situation at the time in detail, and in the middle, Park Moondae and Keun Sejin drew a precautionary line.

[Those two grabbed Ahyeon's back! So how was it, Ahyeon-ssi?]

[I-I felt like I could do it somehow… I-I jumped at once…!]

[It was an amazing sight, but it was not what we intended, and Ahyeon said that from now on he will try it only after safety is secured. Right?]

[Y-Yeah! B-Body is important…!]

Testar soon wrapped up the topic and ended the broadcast after talking about another small story for about half an hour, but of course, this part was the first to be captured.

==========

[Testar's adlib accident is confirmed]

: You can confirm on the W app

(screenshot link with subtitles)

==========

– It's for real

– Seon Ahyeon, did you do any training?

– What I should do about the people who ridiculed fans as delusional ㅋㅋㅋ

– Seon Ahyeon, is he a god?

– I thought just being able to fix it was amazing, but what kind of unrealistic situation is that

– Wow, it was not even planned before. It was just an improvisation;

– Is it possible that they lied because it became a hot issue?

└So many staff members had watched the rehearsal, so why would they lie about this?

└Is Testar at a level where they need to lie? ㅋㅋㅋ

└Leave them alone. I guess they don't know because they're clinging to failed idols like Onyx

People were freaked out by the conclusion that became phenomenal. And the news spread to WeTube and FaceReader.

[Resolving Testar's accident, the absurd guess come true?]

[The power of surviving stocks idol is scary]

[Astounding dance skills of Idol Inc's 3rd place winner]

And so, the unfair image and controversy associated with Testar had lost its power. Testar was able to shake off the mess with this topic.

As such, the controversy over the Rookie of the Year Award completely disappeared as time passed by, to the point that just mentioning it was awkward.

– My kids are geniuses…

– As expected, it's fun to watch idol performances, but Testar is so cute that I can't help but love them

– I have to strike when the iron is hot, I want to sell their cuteness, too ㅠㅠ

Testar's fans, who were full of happiness, tried to share the warm content from W live, but it didn't have much effect.

It was because people had already become accustomed to provocative topics that Testar created…

A little embarrassed, the fans stopped talking about the chicken soup.

In any case, winning the Rookie of the Year Award at major awards ceremonies in January was practically confirmed.

Testar, who had transfused with an image full of talents, was expected to greet the New Year at the broadcasting station as befitting of an idol with good grades.

However, they also met unexpectedly welcome faces there.

* * *

December 31st MBC Song Festival.

“Thank you!”

As soon as we finished our first stage, time flew by.

This was because MBS hit the live broadcast for four hours and scattered Testar’s stages in the first and third parts.

Of course, that didn’t mean that they made us sing two songs. The stage we just did was a cover of the first verse of a male idol song in the 2000s.

In addition, the third part of the stage was only three minutes long so we had to cut off the second verse.

Hmm, considering the result of Testar’s performances this year, it was like a perfect picture of neglect.

‘I wonder if this should be viewed as origin discrimination or agency discrimination.’

Probably both.

“Still, it’s nice to have plenty of time to change clothes. I like it~”

I nodded.

‘On a positive note, we avoided the worst.’

I meant Imjingak.

“That’s right. We didn’t go outdoors.”

“…T-That’s true.”

Wearing summer uniforms, outdoor performances this winter would have been a great spectacle.

It happened when we were crossing the corridor of the broadcasting station while chatting like that.

Someone suddenly greeted us.

“Wow, it’s Testar! Please give me your autograph!”

It was a voice I’d heard before.

And the eyes of the members who turned their heads to check the person widened so big as if they would pop out.

“…Heol!”

“Hyung!”

Surprisingly, the person who greeted us… was Gold 1, Ha Iljoon.

“Hey, how are you?”

Gold 1 waved eagerly among a group of people. Several members approached him with delight.

And I found another familiar face next to Gold 1.

“…Oh.”

It was Choi Wongil.

- 1. spicy braised chicken breast
- 2. Korean-style pasta soup

CHAPTER 122

Choi Wongil. In <Idol Inc.>, he caused a lot of conflict in every team match, and in the end, he was hit by the editing beam and fell apart.

It was a case where he wanted to act weak but it looked too obvious so he ended up ruined.

He even made Seon Ahyeon say, 'He's such a bad person', so in a sense, he had always been an amazing guy.

'Hmm, didn't he drop out while escaping to the Gold 1 agency?'

That's why the two of them were moving together. It wasn't particularly surprising, but it was unexpected that the location was the broadcasting station where a year-end music program was being held.

'They probably haven't debuted yet.'

I had checked this year's rookie trend because of the Rookie Award, and their agency was not in the lineup.

Meanwhile, Gold 1 was happily chatting with the members.

"Wow, nice to meet you! No, wait a minute, should I call you sunbae-nim? Sunbae-nims are really great~"

"That's enough~"

"S-Speak comfortably, hyung…!"

"Hey, Ahyeon, you're still such a nice kid!"

In the friendly atmosphere, I roughly checked Gold 1 and Choi Wongil's appearances.

And I realized.

'You're here as dancers.'

A female soloist who was an idol at their agency recently had very good grades.

And it was not strange to use the debut group trainee as dancers for experience and press coverage since it was a situation that happened quite often.

Sure enough, Gold 1 introduced the people around him who were dressed in the same black clothes, pushing them forward.

"Right, they're my dongsaengs who are practicing together with me!"

"Uh, hello!"

"Hello!"

The eyes of the people greeting us were shining with curiosity, envy, and longing. Perhaps this reaction was awkward, some of the members awkwardly greeted back.

And suddenly, my name was called.

"E-Excuse me, Park Moondae sunbae-nim!"

"Yes?"

"Just one handshake…! Can I please…!!"

He was frightened and suppressed by the people next to him.

“Hey, hey, don’t go crazy!”

“Hey, you bastard, in this place too!”

Just what are you guys doing?

I nodded, hiding my displeasure.

“…Sure.”

“…! T-Thank you!”

And, as if meeting the president of a company, a handshake was exchanged with the utmost politeness.

“Ah, great!”

Gold 1’s team members whispered over the happy handshake.

“Hey, I guess people must have courage too.”

“Indeed.”

…Anyone who saw it would think that he had met a legendary senior in the music industry.

It seemed their team had already been confirmed, and if they made their official debut early next year, it would be less than a year apart from Testar.

‘…Well, grades are everything.’

The gaze that looked up to us purely meant that there was a psychological gap toward ‘the rising group’.

And it looked like they weren’t the only ones feeling that.

Although it was in a slightly different direction.

“Wow, it’s not like I was being filmed but I was really nervous in the pre-recording.”

“No, aren’t you, who have hundreds of thousands of views on fancams, just exaggerating?”

“Hey, it’s different from that! Ruining your stage is scarier!”

“Hmm, I think it’s a difficult matter to decide.”

Behind Gold 1 and Testar members who were exchanging updates, Choi Wongil was lowering his head to avoid eye contact.

“…”

‘He’s overwhelmed.’

He looked like the type that would end it when the pecking order was completely sorted out.

Testar’s activities this year had gone so well that it seemed he couldn’t even think of saying anything.

Meanwhile, Gold 1 also finished greeting Bae Sejin. And with a slightly regretful expression, he threw a closing comment.

“Oh, I have a lot to talk about, but you’re busy, right? I’ll buy you a meal next time!”

It meant that we should go do our business now.

However, we happened to have one person who couldn’t understand empty words.

It was Kim Raebin.

“Oh, we have plenty of time until the next stage. If we move to the waiting room, we won’t have any trouble continuing the conversation.”

Gold 1 was flustered.

“Haha, I appreciate your suggestion, Raebin, but wouldn’t it be uncomfortable for those who don’t know me well~?”

But those people were Cha Eugene and Ryu Chungwoo.

“It’s not uncomfortable!”

“Ah, it’s all right. Make yourself comfortable.”

“I-Is that so?”

Gold 1 was flustered by the neat OK.

And Gold 1’s team members quickly fled when they noticed the situation.

“Hyung, have fun. We’ll go to our dorm!”

“Buy an ice cream when you come back!”

“Idol Inc participants are catching up, ah fighting~”

“These crazy bastards!”

The black-clad guys ran down the hall and disappeared.

However, Choi Wongil who failed to catch the timing remained in his seat.

"…"

It seemed he didn't fit in very well because he had just joined this team, or maybe he had been left behind because he was from Idol Inc.

'This situation is ambiguous.'

Fortunately, Gold 1 got Choi Wongil's back.

"Ah, Wongil, it's the first time we visit these guys' waiting room, so shall we buy something to drink?"

"I'll buy it."

"Huh?"

And Choi Wongil ran before Gold 1 could say anything more.

'I don't think he's going to come back.'

Gold 1 sighed.

"Sorry, it was a little uncomfortable, wasn't it?"

"I-It's fine!"

"I don't think it's fine… But Wongil got a lot better. I'm a little worried that he's looking up too many responses on the internet… These days, he doesn't talk much."

Gold 1 sighed deeply. He seemed to have had quite a hard time.

Keun Sejin smiled and glanced at the spot where Choi Wongil had disappeared.

"Is he also in the debut group?"

“Yeah. Actually, he’s good at singing… He’s young. He’s well-known.”

It wasn’t like he debuted in Idol Inc, and since it was only a matter of broadcast image, they could dismiss it as a bad episode.

There was no big problem with putting him in the group.

‘Well, it has nothing to do with me.’

If that side had over 300,000 copies in the Initial Chodong next year, I would analyze them from then on.

“Huh, Moondae, where are you going?”

“The bathroom.”

I slipped out of the queue to the waiting room and walked down the hallway.

‘There are no people downstairs.’

I had plenty of time, so I thought of going in a direction where I wouldn’t meet people.

And before I could get to the bathroom, I ran into Choi Wongil.

Surprisingly, instead of the convenience store, he was sitting in the corner of the emergency stairs and chewing on his solitude.

“…”

“…”

Let’s just go to the bathroom.

I just nodded my head and passed Choi Wongil to head down the stairs.

Then Choi Wongil suddenly shouted.

“It must be nice, hyung.”

“…??”

“Everything goes well… Everyone likes you.”

Why are you sprouting lines from daily drama all of a sudden?

Whatever. Instead of being absurd, something like this… was very sad and embarrassing.

‘This is an emergency stairway, so it’s echoing.’

So my hands and feet shriveled even more.

I hoped no one was going up and down these remote stairs.

I didn’t want anyone to know that the person listening to that line was me.

“How does it feel to live like that? The whole world revolves around you.”

And I never dreamed that there would be a bastard who would bring these words out in reality.

Choi Wongil was now sniffling.

‘What happened to your sensitivity?’

Once again, I felt the gap that I sometimes felt from aspiring idols.

‘Let’s just leave.’

I slipped away, but I noticed a moving figure under the railing.

"…!"

Could they hear us?

It was quite a long distance. However, although the sound was muffled because of the echo, it seemed they could hear us sparsely.

If I let this guy keep talking, isn't there going to be a strange rumor?

'…Should I fix it and leave?'

I checked Choi Wongil.

"Everyone lives like that! As if I was the only one… Everyone was fighting over footage and cursing out. "

"…"

Now he was talking to himself. It seemed he couldn't control himself now that it had exploded.

'But why are you doing this to me?'

"H-Hyung took my part, too. A-Also… Sejin hyung was also annoyed, but I was the only one who came out looking meaner. I apologized to Heeseung, but it didn't make the cut."

Choi Wongil kept mumbling about the portions he had received in the middle and second half of Idol Inc.

'Your mind hasn't gotten out of Idol Inc yet.'

Well, that could happen.

A young self-conscious man was suddenly criticized for months by an unspecified number of people.

Testar had been through various crazy things over the past half year, so I quickly brushed off my feelings over my time at Idol Inc. But for this guy who only practiced, it must be a little different.

Perhaps the reason he did this to me was also because there was still a sense of containment and enthusiasm left from Idol Inc's rating evaluation.

Those feelings burst out when he ran into me as an individual, not as one of Testar.

'…Wouldn't it be better for him to get counseling at least once?'

Of course, there was no need for me to talk about such things, I didn't have any desire to. Let's just clean up the situation to make sure there wouldn't be any rumors and then leave quickly.

I held back my sigh and opened my mouth.

"Are you jealous of me? Why?"

"…Because everything worked out for you."

"No, that's not true."

I stared at Choi Wongil.

"Would you do it if I told you to switch with me?"

"…We can't switch…!"

"That means you do want to switch with me. Well…"

I rubbed the back of my neck.

“But honestly, you wouldn’t want to change your family.”

“…!”

Choi Wongil flinched as he crouched. Of course, this guy also knew Park Moondae’s family history.

I spoke slowly on purpose.

“The only thing I am jealous of you is… Right now, it’s just my professional status. And I don’t know how this will change in a few years.”

“…”

“Do you get along with your parents?”

“…Yes.”

“Right, I hope it will be like that in the future.”

“…”

Choi Wongil bowed his head.

‘This is enough.’

The unstoppable attack worked well.

‘You must have gotten rid of your useless sense of inferiority now.’

This is how you use the famous family history.

‘Let’s just say ‘cheer up’ and end it.’

But before I could open my mouth again, something surprising happened.

"…I'm sorry."

"…!"

An apology came out of Choi Wongil's mouth.

"From the beginning… I was just lucky, so I'm sorry."

Um… Was it?

It was probably one of Choi Wongil's sarcastic remarks during the evaluation practice.

'Isn't it the national rule that the person who originally spits it out can't remember and only the person who heard it remembers?'

I didn't know that he was the only one who still remembered.

Anyway, it was a good conversation to end the situation. It would have been better if someone was listening.

I nodded.

"Yes, I accept the apology. You should also prepare well for your debut."

"…"

Choi Wongil nodded softly.

Actually, Choi Wongil was a bit mean, but he didn't commit any great crimes. His mind wasn't mature enough to be shrewd.

'He doesn't have the ability to ruin someone with politics.'

Even Gold 2, which he had openly ignored, did it better than him.

Overall, he was just an annoying troll.

‘I hope I don’t have to see you in the future.’

I walked down the stairs.

I checked again under the railing just in case, but the person I saw earlier was already gone.

* * *

“Happy New Year!!”

“Happy New Year~”

Testar celebrated the New Year by taking care of the countdown on MBS.

However, of course, there was no time to relax and enjoy the New Year’s sentiment.

Because a new award ceremony was waiting five days later.

<Golden Disc Awards>

Since it was one of the fairly famous and old awards ceremonies, it was also included in the nomination for the ‘most prestigious award ceremonies’ arbitrarily set up by Park Moondae.

It was held over two days, divided into digital and album sections, but there was still only one Rookie Award category.

In addition, the Rookie Award ceremony part was included in the cue sheet for the date of the album section that Testar attended.

Everyone thought inwardly.

‘Honestly, it will be weird if Testar doesn’t receive it.’

And as everyone expected, Testar won the Rookie of the Year award early, even before their stage sequence arrived.

“Congratulations! Testar!”

It was not a surprising result.

But perhaps because there were so many obstacles, both fans and Testar were overflowing with joy!

“Waaaaaagh!!”

Recalling what had happened on the Internet for the past two months, fans waved the lightsticks enthusiastically and cheered.

“Thank you!”

Testar came up to the stage and bowed.

However, upon receiving the bouquet and the trophy, they suddenly exchanged glances with sly smiles.

And they immediately handed the microphone over to Seon Ahyeon.

“…??”

In an instant, a slightly bewildered atmosphere passed through the audience.

Because anyone who had watched at least one episode of <idol Inc.> couldn’t help but know about Seon Ahyeon’s stuttering symptoms.

First of all, handing over the microphone to Seon Ahyeon was something that had never happened before. There was even a time when he became flustered and fell back.

However, Seon Ahyeon looked slightly nervous but accepted the microphone right away.

“…For the generous reward,… Thank you very much.”

“…!!”

CHAPTER 123

Seon Ahyeon didn't stutter.

"…I will continue to do my best with the same heart as I have now… I understand what it means to be active and I will always do my best."

His words were slow, and there were a lot of parts where he took a breath and paused. I heard some parts where he dragged the pronunciation here and there and connected the sentence.

But he didn't stutter once.

"…And, to Loviewers who support us,… Thank you so much, I love you!"

"Love you, Loviewer!"

"Thank you!"

Behind Seon Ahyeon, who finished the last sentence safely, the members rumbled up the atmosphere.

But there was none of that.

The fan seats were already in a whirlwind of shock and emotion.

Aaaah!

Good job!! Good job!!

What should I do!! Uaaa!!

Even those who watched the video could hear the sound of the audience echoing through Testar's microphone.

-Gasp ㅋㅋㅋㅋ I can hear the fans ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Seon Ahyeon's fans will be out of breath

– ㅋㅋㅋ This is a secret, but actually, I was a little touched.

└ Me too ㅋㅋㅋㅠㅠㅠ

└ ㅋㅋㅋㅋ Is this the shareholders' aftermath?

– Seon Ahyeon, you did well ㅠㅠ

– It couldn't have been easy. Amazing.

– Anyway, congratulations, Testar 大ㅋ大ㅋ You deserve it

Thus, Testar completed the award while proving themselves.

There was no shadow of the ridicule and condemnation that people had expected at the end of last year.

* * *

After winning the award and returning to the singer's seat, the team members praised Seon Ahyeon one by one.

"Ahyeon, congratulations on achieving your goal!"

"Congratulations!"

Seon Ahyeo's face reddened.

"T-Thank you…"

Hmm, he deserved the congratulations. Because he'd been through a lot.

'Approximately… You practiced for about a month and a half.'

Seon Ahyeon started treating his stuttering symptoms at the time when he was so busy with the year-end stage practice.

Since he was still in the beginning phase, it was said that he had to set an easy short-term goal for a sense of purpose, and this was the goal that Seon Ahyeon set.

Expressing his appreciation without stuttering at the award ceremony.

Thanks to this, I saw Sun Ahyeon muttering that short speech all day long in the dorm, practice room, and car.

'…Even the manager had memorized all the speech within a week.'

And it wasn't long before everyone started treating Seon Ahyeon's murmurs as half-asleep ASMR.

Anyway, it was definitely impressive that he succeeded after practicing for a long period of time without being overly impatient.

'Once you succeed, you'll keep going.'

It would be good for the group if the possibility of Seon Ahyeon's status abnormality reoccurring was reduced.

I added a compliment, too.

"I said it would be okay if things didn't come out the way you practiced. But I didn't have to say that. You did well."

“…! I-It’s not that great… There were parts where I breathed too much, I-I’ll really do well next time…!”

“…”

No… I’m just saying you did well. Why did you answer as if making up an excuse?

But before I could correct anything, Seon Ahyeon strike first.

“A-Advising me to consult… Thank you for telling me.”

Hmm, maybe it was something to be grateful for. I nodded.

“Don’t mention it.”

“Oh, so heartwarming~”

“Our team has a great atmosphere.”

The controversy disappeared and the Rookie of the Year Award was received properly, with all their worries gone, they smiled and headed to the singer’s seat cheerfully.

But the more I returned to the singer’s seat, the darker my mood became.

Because Testar’s seat position was right next to VTIC.

‘Why do you have a rookie next to you?’

Thanks to this, I had to greet VTIC every time I moved, but it was fine.

“Congratulations~”

“Thank you!”

The problem was that every time we greeted each other, Cheongryeo snickered while looking at me.

*'F*ck.'*

Anyone who saw it would think that he was just laughing with joy.

It was because that bastard did a pretty good job of handling the SNS posts that sparked the controversy over the Rookie Award.

Every time he appeared on the year-end program, he uploaded a lot of photos on SNS, and in the midst of it, he added random cast members with phrases similar to Onyx's post.

He was diluting the water, so to speak.

(TL notes: Diluting the water attempts = to distract from an issue by changing the topic.)

Thanks to the fans' active clarification, everyone seemed to think that the Onyx case was just a coincidence.

…The only thing that upset me the most was the response, 'He seemed to have a close relationship with Park Moondae, so I thought it was weird~'…Let me tell you.

"…"

After the greeting, I walked in slowly on purpose and sat down in the chair as far away from VTIC as possible.

It didn't mean much, it was just to make my mood less bad.

Soon after, the first part was over and a few minutes of commercial time entered.

And the advertisement appeared on the electronic display as well.

[Magical Boy Testar's magical artificial intelligence assistant!]

"Aaaagh!"

"Wow, please…"

The members screamed in agony and hit their heads on the table at the public certification of our (currently ongoing) dark history. The Russian roulette of horror was back.

[Kkyu! Curious!]

The victim this time was Bae Sejin.

Bae Sejin's acting with the CG of hamster ears was natural, but the body had completely lost its taste.

"…I-I am going to the bathroom."

Bae Sejin staggered from his seat with his face turning red and hurriedly ran away.

And the members were both sympathetic and laughing hard at the same time.

"Ahahahaha!!"

"Sejin, it's fine, pfft!"

From clapping their hands to putting their heads on their knees, all sorts of reactions came out.

'You're saying it's fine as long as it's not me.'

That’s right. I nodded and opened a water bottle.

The moment I put the water bottle mouth in my mouth, someone sat in Bae Sejin’s seat.

And asked.

“There is one for each member, right? It’s funny.”

“Puuft.”

It almost came out through my nose.

*‘F*ck.’*

It was Cheongryeo.

The laughing members bowed their heads in surprise.

“Hello!”

“Yes. Hello. I’m just going to talk to Moondae for a while.”

“Yes!”

Give him dirty looks, you bastards.

However, since Bae Sejin was not here, there was no one to do that. Damn it.

At least, Keun Sejin seemed almost convinced that Cheongryeo’s SNS upload incident was intentional, but now he was smiling and nodding his head.

And in fact, this was the correct action.

‘There are fancams of the singer’s seat.’

Someone in the stands must be filming this scene.

Whether it was VTIC or Testar members, the current situation would surely be caught on at least twenty cameras.

‘Let’s stay calm.’

Even if we talked here anyway, the sound didn’t spread because this place was so loud. Unless you deliberately speak loudly, even the members wouldn’t be able to hear you.

“What do you want to talk about?”

“I should have told you on the last phone call… Don’t you remember?”

Oh, his SNS upload was not out of bad intentions, he had said something like that.

In summary, he wanted to explain ‘I didn’t mean to sh*t on you.’

Now that it turned out like this, I would listen roughly and end it with, ‘Yeah, that’s right. I understand’, but there was a problem.

“…You’ll explain it all within the commercial time.”

“Ah, that’s enough. Listen.”

Cheongryeo smiled and nodded.

“It’s best to die once at this timing.”

“…!”

“I thought about it, but that was the hardest thing for me at first. I was reluctant to start over.”

Cheongryeo tapped the table.

“But once I tried it, I realized it wasn’t a big deal right away. Then things became much easier from then on.”

“…”

Unimaginable reasons for why he turned out insane continued popping up.

‘Wow, this is no joke.’

I consciously picked up the water bottle and gulped it down.

The palms of my hands sweated.

“You must have had some regrets this time, too, right? Let’s go back and fix it. Then the pressure goes away… Instead, you will have a sense of accomplishment.”

“Wait a minute.”

I put the bottle down.

“Then, it’s true that you were trying to make me die by failing to win the Rookie of the Year Award.”

“Can’t you get the Rookie Award just because I did that? No, that’s not it… I just made it bothersome.”

Cheongryeo kindly added an explanation.

“The public opinion was bad, and the situation was annoying, so you might want to try it again.”

“…So you tried to help ease the process by reducing my rejection of my death?”

“Yes.”

“Mm, don’t lie.”

“…What?”

“Whether the process is going to be easy or not for me has nothing to do with you, so there’s no reason to do that.”

“…!”

Even if I had a very favorable relationship with this guy, there was no way this guy would have acted with altruistic intentions without asking for benefit.

I was going to listen to it roughly and move on, but at this point, I couldn’t predict what bullshit would come out, so I stopped.

Cheongryeo looked a little awkward.

“Mm, of course, it was a choice that took my position into consideration as well.”

“…”

“It’s not like this had any effect on you, hubae-nim… I am just curious.”

Cheongryeo slightly bent his neck.

“I want to know if I will regress if you die.”

"…!"

"That's right. It doesn't have to be to the first time I returned… The point you returned to is fine. There are a few things I want to fix in the first half of this year."

This bastard was completely out of his mind.

It was the reset syndrome in the truest sense.

"Oh, of course, I'm not saying I want to keep starting again… But it's good if you check it in advance. Isn't it?"

"Hold on."

I started to think that this bastard might bury me with VTIC scandal if I did this wrong.

'I'm going crazy.'

…I didn't mean to say this, but I thought it would be less risky if I said it.

First of all… He still looked like a logical person, so let's start with logic.

"…First of all, I think if I fail, it might just be the end."

"…Hmm?"

"That's what I feel. I think I am just going die."

Since I couldn't mention the status window, I dismissed it as a feeling, but it was true.

'In my status abnormality, only 'death' is stated.'

There was no mention of 'returning' itself like Cheongryeo's status abnormality.

'It'll probably end with this once.'

Even if I could go back, there was no need to venture. It was good for my mind to think it was just the end of my life.

But Cheongryeo laughed.

"Ah, it would feel like that at first. But would it actually be like that?"

"…"

"Don't be afraid and try it."

This bastard, really.

I answered desperately.

"No. I don't want to start over in the first place. I want to see the end here now. I like the members right now, and I like the fans. There is nothing I want to change."

"…"

Cheongryeo closed his mouth. And he stared into the air without expression.

'…Did I go too far?'

He wasn't going to smash my head by suddenly taking out a hammer from somewhere, right?

But Cheongryeo soon nodded.

"…Me too, I guess."

"…"

"Mm, I see. Well, then."

Did it work?

I almost lost all of my tension all of sudden, but I held it in. He was the kind of guy that might stab me in the back again.

But Cheongryeo just looked a little apologetic.

"Anyway, I'm sorry if you had a hard time because of me this time."

"…It's all right. But next time, please confirm with me first."

"Yes. Ah, then I should tell you some comforting news… Mm, that's right."

"…?"

"I'll tell you the criteria for the Rookie of the Year Award assignment."

Cheongryeo laughed.

"It's 'Rookie of the Year' Award from Korean Music Award."

"…!"

Korean Music Award?

'That' Korean Music Award?

…<Korean Popular Music Style> which excluded the commerciality and evaluated only the music… that one.

As far as I was aware, there had never been an idol that won that Rookie of the Year Award…

Wait, that meant this bastard didn't win it either.

"Haha! Of course, it's a joke."

"…"

One day… when the status abnormality was over, I would smash Testar's Grand Prize trophy on this bastard's face.

Fortunately, before my patience could run out, Cheongryeo spit out the right information.

"The important thing is the public opinion after receiving the Rookie of the Year Award."

"…!"

"You won an award that you deserve, this reaction had to be solid public opinion for you to pass. Of course, the premise is to win half of the awards at real awards ceremonies."

…I see.

'Was the 'most prestigious awards ceremony' that the status window referring to was the public opinion?'

It was plausible.

Somehow, even at this Goldie Rookie Award, the status abnormality goal achievement pop-up didn't t appear, so it probably wouldn't appear until February.

And the moment I made that conclusion, Bae Sejin, who had run away, returned.

“…! Excuse me.”

“Oh, I’m sorry. I’ll get up. Moondae, I’ll contact you again.”

“…”

I couldn’t bear to give a positive answer, but I nodded, self-conscious of the fancam.

Cheongryeo waved to Testar members and went back to his seat.

Bae Sejin looked at Cheongryeo with a slightly reluctant face, then sat down in his seat, looking a little uncomfortable.

“…Are you close with him?”

I wondered briefly why Bae Sejin didn’t call him sunbae, but I soon realized that it had been more than 14 years since Bae Sejin had debuted.

So I easily put on a straight face.

“No, we were talking about work.”

“…Work?”

“Oh, the social life of Moondae~”

Perhaps our voice was a little loud, Keun Sejin listened and giggled. It seemed he had guessed that Cheongryeo must have made an excuse about the SNS.

However, Bae Sejin whispered with a slightly serious face.

“Tell me if he’s bothering you.”

“…”

Maybe Bae Sejin recalled his past experience as a child actor and thought about the abuse of power by seniors in the industry… Wait, I supposed it was true in a way.

Anyway, since this issue was impossible to explain, I just nodded my head vaguely.

“In that case, I will tell you. Thank you.”

“…Alright.”

On this day, Testar received the main prize and performed the stage well without any mistakes, and then they returned home.

By the way, the group that won the Grand Prize was VITC.

…I hoped they would continue to win the awards until my status abnormality was over.

Some madman might attack me in the middle of the night to regress.

* * *

And the day after the Golden Disc Awards.

I prepared my heart, but I heard some unwelcome news.

“I heard he went to work today?”

A new director was appointed to the company.

CHAPTER 124

“Oh~ What kind of person is the new director?”

“I heard he’s a good person.”

I overheard the conversation between the manager and Keun Sejin.

‘Let’s not expect anything.’

The new higher-up probably also had a great mindset like the former director.

In any case, Testar’s results were good when he became the director, so wouldn’t the company send a similar guy again?

However, this expectation was broken in a good way.

“…A payment bot?”

“That’s right! It seems he’s trying to save profit because he’s about to retire.”

What I heard from the people at the company, Director Lee didn’t interfere or pushed on projects, and he just let the staff do whatever they wanted.

‘…Come to think of it, no one said he’s calling us.’

Usually, they would ask to see the faces of the singers, but such a thing didn’t happen.

I didn't think he was going to be this nice for a long time, but it wasn't bad for now. Because it was more comfortable for a superior I didn't know to shout ok than to get motivated.

However, one big project was dropped into us due to this influence.

"A concert…"

"Finally, we're preparing for our solo performance."

As the overdue large-scale approval was approved one by one, the concert date was finally set.

But here was another problem.

"…Isn't the date for March a little ambiguous?"

Right.

It was perfect for the start of the semester, the start of the school season… The date was caught during a season when anyone would not have enough time to go to a performance.

…Originally, they were going to aim for a special event at the beginning of the year, but the company was apparently so chaotic at the time that they couldn't properly rent it.

I didn't know if I should say it was a relief, but thanks to this delay, reparations for the rental of performance equipment were already completed.

Fortunately, the members soon relieved their anxiety about the date.

"But since it's the weekend, won't there be quite a lot of people who want to come?"

“T-There will be fans who have a good time…!”

“It will be nice if a lot of people come!”

“I want to prepare well and show them a good performance.”

The atmosphere flared up.

‘…And there are three months left.’

Well, I had seen some singers who took more than half a year to prepare a concert, but three months wasn’t too bad.

‘Realistically, half a year ago, it was impossible to make a preparation because only our debut song just gotten released.’

It would be a bit of a tough job, but I thought I could handle it well since it wasn’t during my activity period.

…Just as I thought about this, a new proposal was dropped to the staff.

“Why don’t you present your first performance of your new song at your first concert?”

“…Are we making a comeback in March?”

“Isn’t it a little too much?”

It was too much.

I wondered if they had forgotten what they had gone through when we had to release our debut album within a month.

…But surprisingly, an answer that made sense followed.

“But in order to fill the concert set list, we have to pick a few new songs, so wouldn’t it be nice if it is Testar’s song instead of a cover of another singer’s song?”

“…Um, yes.”

“Besides, almost all the songs in this album have already been released, so we only have to work on the title track.”

They were right.

Actually, this comeback… It was our first full-length album.

So in order to put more effort, when I was working on the previous album, I had already selected half of the songs for the next album in advance.

Since then, I had been working on it in my spare time.

“Music video shooting and stuff like that have to be filmed on a concert VCR anyway, so I think we can do it according to the schedule… The concept photo can also be adjusted for the concert.”

“…”

Cost and time savings.

And it would be nice to have a concept for the concert. If the concept of the first full-length album was related to the concert, it would have a mutual promotion effect and the fans would enjoy it.

As a result, excluding the staff and the singers, everyone would be happy.

‘I’m going crazy.’

Sure enough, Kim Raebin, who had been listening quietly next to me, was trying to raise his hand as a sign of agreement.

The rabbit meat voluntarily went into the fire pit like no other.

Ryu Chungwoo cleared up the situation for now.

“Is it okay if we discuss it between ourselves and talk to you about it again?”

“Yes, yes, but please tell me by tomorrow.”

And there was nothing to decide until tomorrow.

Because the conclusion was reached in the company’s practice room.

Surprisingly, it was unanimous.

“We want to try working on it.”

“Ah, well thought out!”

The company was delighted.

And the members… It was obvious that their faces were saying ‘If I have done it once, I can do it again’.

It was the damage caused by the good results from the previous crazy schedule.

‘Even Bae Sejin is corrupted.’

After changing the year-end stage within a week once, it seemed that this side had also begun to gain experience.

* * *

Soon after, the company sent me a draft of the concert's set list.

Ryu Chungwoo quickly briefed us.

"Our title tracks and all the b-sides included… Even if you include the b-side songs in the fan song, we only have 10 songs."

"Hmm~ You need at least 20 songs for a concert, right?"

"In fact, we have less than 20 songs. Shouldn't we add more?"

"T-That's right."

The set list, with empty songs here and there, was still lacking.

"First of all, even if we add two songs from the new album, we will have to add the remaining eight songs."

A plan to include songs that didn't have choreography from the new album was also considered, but they rejected it because they wanted more performance songs.

I was speechless seeing these guys voluntarily cutting off the sections where they could take a breather.

'I'm going to collapse at this rate.'

Fortunately, I remembered the company's suggestion.

"I asked them to include some of our unit songs, let's fill them in for now."

In this way, we would have a semi-forceful break while the members took turns.

Besides, the company seemed to be drawing a bigger picture.

“Ah, you said you’re going to film your own content with that, right?”

Right. We would edit the process of dividing and preparing the unit stage and then upload it on WeTube like a variety show.

And after the concert was over, we planned to upload the unit stage like a choreography video.

“Then, let’s think about the remaining five songs without those three songs. Does anyone have a song you want to sing?”

“Me!”

“M-Me too…!”

And after a fierce battle, five songs were selected.

Thanks to Bae Sejin, who exercised his right to remain silent, and Ryu Chungwoo, who chose to yield, the process went smoothly.

“Then I’ll put it up like this for now.”

“Yes!”

So, the company confirmed the set list by revising a few orders after asking ‘Is it really okay like this?’ about ten times.

However, I still felt uncertain, and I heard that the VCR time was set for a long time.

‘…I guess I’ll have to work harder on cardio.’

Looking at the response of the staff, I was strongly convinced that the concert would be extremely difficult.

And after spending several days deciding on the title and concept of the new album.

A camera came into the dorm for the first time in a long while.

It was right to shoot the scene of dividing the unit concert stage.

But the method was unique.

“What day is it today?”

“The day we change roommates~”

It was because we decided to change our roommates and perform on stage with suitable matches.

‘…It’s like an Idol Inc’s team match.’

They said if you stare into the abyss, the abyss stares back at you, but it seemed everyone was already corrupted.

Well, to be honest, it was unexpected and fun. I could feel that these guys were confident that they could do well with anyone.

“Let’s say goodbye to our dear roommates! Aigoo, hyung-nim and dongsaeng~”

Holding a cue card, Keun Sejin proceeded to hug Cha Eugene and Ryu Chungwoo while brazenly pretending to weep.

It was an atmosphere full of intense skits.

Swept away by this atmosphere, Kim Raebin politely said farewell to Seon Ahyeon.

“Thank you so much for always responding to my noisy work with a generous and gentle attitude. I hope we can share a room together next time.”

“I-I am really grateful! A-And it was nice to hear you working. Your song was nice…!”

It was a harmonious, but extremely formal image.

The two seemed to get along well and had good feelings, but it looked like they had failed to get close openly.

I also said farewell to Bae Sejin.

“I think we were good roommates because we have similar lifestyles, but it’s too bad.”

“…Indeed. It would be nice to stay that way.”

As Bae Sejin spoke, his eyes were subtly directed at Cha Eugene. I felt like I would get a stomach ache just at the thought of staying together with him.

‘…There’s no way, right?’

It shouldn’t be.

I ended the conversation by shaking hands with Bae Sejin and assimilating his thoughts.

“Okay then, let’s meet our new roommates!”

“Wow!”

After the clichéd applause passed by, Keun Sejin smiled and took out the prepared props from behind.

“This roommate system is… It’s card flipping!”

“Oh!”

“Do you see the number on the back? It’s the room number! Those with the same number will share the room together~”

Keun Sejin shuffled the cards. Perhaps he had played this game before, he moved as he was familiar with it.

Then, seven sheets were turned upside down on the floor.

“Now, everyone here chooses the card they want~”

“OK!”

“All right!”

Whoever chose the card first was decided by a casual karaoke scoring game.

“Y-Yes!”

In fact, the order of the card selection didn’t matter at all, so rather than the game, everyone was focused on picking out the amount of footage for content.

And the score was completely meaningless.

“First place is… Cha Eugene who scored 100 points!”

“Oh!”

Because the person who won first place was the guy who accidentally selected a song he didn’t know and just made it all up.

“Now, pick a card!”

“Yes!”

“Then… Oh! It’s number one!”

Anyway, starting with Cha Eugene, each person proceeded to pull a card.

And I… Surprisingly, I was in the same room with Bae Sejin again.

“Oh, Bae Sejin hyung-nim’s room number is… Number three! It’s the same room as Moondae~”

“…!!”

Bae Sejin clenched his hands tightly, then cleared his throat as if he was embarrassed.

“Hmph, then… I look forward to your kind cooperation.”

“Of course.”

In fact, I also avoided Cha Eugene and felt the same way, so I had nothing to say.

But the problem was number three.

Just like when we first decided on the roommates in the reality show, number 3 was a room for three people.

And the remaining lineup was… Keun Sejin and Seon Ahyeon.

“Ah~ we are the only ones left!”

“R-Right.”

“Okay, then I’ll pick first-“

Keun Sejin, who got to pick first, put his hand on the remaining cards as if he was agonizing.

Then he slipped his hand down and put his hand on the other card.

“…!”

Wait, this bastard…

“I’ll take this one! Ahyeon-ssi, shall we turn it over together?”

“O-Okay!”

“Then… one, two, three!”

Keun Sejin and Seon Ahyeon flipped the card.

The result was…

“Oooh!”

“Hey! Eugene! Please take good care of me again!”

Keun Sejin picked number one, Cha Eugene’s room.

And naturally, the one who picked number 3 was… Seon Ahyeon.

Seon Ahyeon showed the card with a broad smile.

“…! T-Take good care of me! I will leave it up to you!”

“Yes, let’s get along well.”

Bae Sejin's face instantly relaxed. It seemed he was satisfied with this room assignment.

I also added.

"It's been a while since we shared a room."

"Y-Yeah!"

Seon Ahyeon quickly joined the people of room number three, holding the card tightly.

"Well, then, we have a surprise announcement for Loviewers! What will it be?"

Members laughed and added drum rolls.

"Da-dum-da-dum!"

Keun Sejin lifted the cue card.

"This time, we're going to perform a unit stage with our roommates!"

"Please look forward to it!"

As prepared, the members enthusiastically waved their hands toward the camera.

That was how the shoot in the living room ended.

"Whoo!"

"Then let's move our luggage first~"

The members immediately started to move their luggage to the new room.

But the guy who was usually the first to dash did something different.

He took the card from the floor of the living room.

“Ah! Here it is.”

“Yes, thank you~”

Keun Sejin organized the cards, arranged them into the original box, and handed them over to the staff.

Then, when he saw me still staying in the living room, he smiled and talked to me.

“Moondae, aren’t you going to move your luggage?”

“…I am going.”

I followed Keun Sejin to the hallway.

And I thought.

‘You did something there.’

He had avoided number three on purpose.

CHAPTER 125

‘That guy did something like this?’

It was a little strange.

I knew that Keun Sejin was a guy who was quick to judge the situation and drive public opinion in his favor.

But was he the kind of person who would choose a unit by playing tricks on the cards?

Rather than taking the risk of being caught, he would have just taken it to his advantage as much as possible in the given situation.

‘I don’t think he would do that just because he wanted to avoid Bae Sejin.’

Hmm, it didn’t feel good.

However, it wasn’t a good circumstance to ask this.

There was no evidence, and to bring up such a story with cameras installed in the dorm would be a suicidal move.

And it was hard to say something even if it was true. It wouldn’t be a big problem if you sneaked a unit for a one-time concert.

There was a high probability that the atmosphere would be strained for no reason.

‘...Let’s skip it for now.’

I went to the bed in room 1, which was now my old room. Keun Sejin slowly came along as if he was looking around where his room would be.

“Oh, I’m going to use Moondae’s bed. Moondae, I will hand over my bed to you.”

“…Which one is it?”

“What, did you forget? It’s the far left~”

“Okay. I will avoid it.”

“Gosh, are you too shy to use it? It’s okay, Moondae. Don’t hesitate to use it~”

“…”

He was just the same as usual.

I shook my head, packed my things, and left room number one.

‘When another problem happens, maybe I can bring it up then.’

And the timing came a little faster than expected.

It was at the award ceremony just a few days later.

* * *

Excluding Korean Music Award, it was practically the last large award ceremony.

However, a few big singers didn’t attend. Probably because it overlapped with their tour schedules.

That meant VTIC didn't come either.

'...I don't have to worry about the hammer.'

The moment I had that thought, I got a text message.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Looks like it's almost the last one this time. Congratulations on the Rookie of the Year Award ^^]

"..."

I felt like I'd been hit by a mental hammer.

I replied with a short message and turned off my smartphone. Then pretending to know, Keun Sejin asked.

"Do you keep in touch with Cheongryeo sunbae-nim?"

"...Yeah."

"Hmm~ All right, all right."

Keun Sejin seemed to want to add something more but we arrived at the awards waiting room before he could do that.

A piece of paper was attached to the door of the waiting room.

[Gyrop/Testar]

This time, it was not a single waiting room.

'Thanks to our results so far, we've been receiving a good waiting room for a rookie.'

I heard that in a situation where there was not enough waiting room, there were many cases where people just put in a dividing screen and

waited there.

‘Having two groups in one room is actually a good situation.’

Hmm, so we were waiting together this time… with a boy idol group from a famous agency.

‘Are they seniors three or four years older?’

It was a predictable lineup.

Ryu Chungwoo lightly asked the members.

“Well, let’s greet them as we go in.”

“Yes!”

However, unlike other members who reacted normally, Keun Sejin right next to me was agitated.

“…!… Um.”

…Wait a minute.

‘Come to think of it, if you calculate the debut date of these guy’s agency…’

But before I had time to think about it further, the door was opened by the manager.

“Hello, sunbae-nim!”

“Ah~ Hello~”

There were trivial greetings coming and going, but soon Gyrop approached with an exaggerated smile.

“Ah~ Sejin!”

“How have you been?”

As expected, it turned out like this.

I supposed it was true that they were ‘that’ group who caused Keun Sejin’s short derailment before <Idol Inc.>.

Keun Sejin was weeded out right before his debut, the first debut group of his first agency.

“Wow~ Hello. Sunbae-nim~ Really, glad to see you!”

“Hey, what do you mean with sunbae-nim? Just call me hyung~”

“How can I do that?”

Keun Sejin laughed, shook hands with some of the guys, and bumped fists with them. They looked very close.

The other members… Their faces were saying ‘Keun Sejin is behaving like Keun Sejin’. Because he was such a sociable guy.

However, the atmosphere changed slightly after that.

“Sejin, uh, you don’t even look at my messages. I’m disappointed.”

“Ah, you know~ I’ve been so busy after my debut.”

“Right. Sejin, you’re busy right now. It’s a lot later than I thought! Lucky for you.”

‘Eh?’

These guys were being subtly sarcastic about Keun Sejin's failure to debut.

Keun Sejin answered with a big smile.

"It's great~ Sunbae-nims often talk to me, but I am sorry for the late reply! I'm busy with work, so the timing doesn't match."

It meant these assh*les were free because they didn't have any schedule.

"…No, well, we didn't message you that often right? I was just curious about how you were doing."

"Huh? Isn't it easy to know what I've been up to since I've been out here and there a lot lately? Please tell me how sunbae-nims have been doing too~ I'm curious about everything."

"…"

Wow, because these guys' activity was in a slump, he could turn things around without mentioning our grades like this.

No matter how you looked at it, it was a decisive victory for Keun Sejin.

And at this point, most of the members except Kim Raebin had their eyes rolling around as if they had grasped the situation.

The members of Gyrop were on the verge of decay.

"…Right. You'll find our news this year even if you don't want to know~"

"Is that so? I'm looking forward to it! Please look forward to our Testar as well."

"…"

There was a pure weight class difference.

In the end, the Gyrop members forced themselves to smile and finished their greetings.

“Okay. Let’s work hard together.”

“Yes!”

The conversation seemed to end like that.

However, as if he couldn’t stand it, one of the Gyrop members who was standing in the back stepped in.

“But I only heard about Testar, though? I haven’t heard much about you.”

“…!”

Surprisingly, these trivial words seemed to hit Keun Sejin hard.

Keun Sejin was still smiling, but instead of making any counterarguments, he kept his mouth shut.

‘Huh?’

And here, Kim Raebin couldn’t stand it and raised his hand to speak.

By the way, it was not out of anger, but out of pure logical fallacy.

He didn’t get upset because he didn’t know the situation.

“…? Since Sejin hyung is a Testar member, isn’t the news about Testar also means news about hyung?”

“That’s right!”

Cha Eugene quickly agreed.

But Gyrop didn't give up.

"No, I mean I only heard about the group and not about Lee Sejin~"

"…? Oh, we have never done individual activities other than group activities. You can think of Testar's news as Sejin hyung-nim's news."

"…"

It might not have been Kim Raebin's intention, but thanks to him, Gyrop's words became unreasonable.

It was over.

'Let's clean it up.'

I interjected with a laugh.

"Yes. From now on, whenever you hear about Testar, you can think of Lee Sejin. Right?"

"You're right!"

Contrary to Kim Raebin's proud face, Gyrop's expression was completely rotten.

"…Ah, yeah."

Even if they were the seniors, these bastards didn't have the guts to come to the awards ceremony and act rashly toward a group that had such a huge weight class difference, so the conversation ended like that.

However, Keun Sejin's condition didn't recover.

‘This guy is really strange.’

Looking at his smartphone for an hour without a word, Keun Sejin created a dirty feeling of incongruity.

…And connecting the situation just now with the unit card incident a few days ago, there was something suspicious.

‘…It would be ambiguous to leave it like this.’

Keun Sejin often held the microphone.

If he kept going like this, there might be a problem when he had to say the award speech later, so it was better to knock it off now.

“…I’ll go to the car for a minute.”

“Huh?”

“I left something behind.”

I got up from my seat and got the key from the manager.

“Do you want me to look for you?”

“It’s all right. I’ll be right back.”

Then I tapped Keun Sejin, who was sitting near the door.

“Hey, let’s go.”

“…Hn? What?”

“I think I need one more person to move it around. I have to take pictures.”

"…"

Keun Sejin looked me up and down without a word, then got up with a smile on his lips.

"…Okay~"

It was clear that he was being sarcastic about something, but let's skip that for now.

Then, without saying a word to this guy, I walked down the hallway and arrived at the car.

After checking that there was no one around, I got in the car and opened my mouth.

"…"

"Do you have any problem lately?"

"…Sigh."

Keun Sejin looked up at the ceiling of the car and sighed. It seemed he had noticed my purpose for calling him out here.

"It's nothing."

"…Is that so? Then cool your head before going up. You looked uncomfortable in the waiting room."

"…!"

I shrugged and searched for a neck pillow in the car.

I could just say that I was here to find this.

“I’ll make up an excuse, so come back before then.”

“…”

I grabbed the car door. Then, Keun Sejin let out a long sigh from behind me.

“…I’m sorry. This is a little hard.”

“Sounds like there’s a problem.”

“Problem… Is that how I should call it?”

Keun Sejin struggled to say anything, and the silence continued.

‘Should I just say it?’

I pondered for a moment before opening my mouth.

“Actually, I saw you choosing the unit cards… You knew the card number 3 and avoided it.”

“……!”

“…Was it because if 3 people did it, the amount of footage would be less than with 2 people?”

Seeing how he was hit by comments like ‘It’s not you who are doing well, it’s the group~’ earlier, I wondered if he was sensitive to the decrease in his footage.

But Keun Sejin shook his head.

“…No.”

Then, while fiddling with his smartphone, he slowly continued his next words.

“I avoided it because it’s you and Bae Sejin hyung. It will be difficult to show the dance with that number of people.”

“…!”

“It’s obvious. We would have composed a vocal-oriented performance song centered on you… I would end up getting a dance break center. Even that would have to be arranged to match hyung, so the difficulty level would be easy.”

“…Maybe you could have tried to dance in the center.”

“Haha. Aigoo, Moondae. You would have taken such an adventure in a concert where fans spend their money.”

“…”

“And if the dance was arranged to suit me, the fans wouldn’t have liked it.”

“Why do you think so?”

“…You’re driving me crazy.”

Keon Sejin sighed a few times, then after hesitating several times, he held out his smartphone.

Searched under his own anti-search name… was the result of SNS.

– To be honest, it’s embarrassing to even call it a dance line, right? Ahyeonji is the one on top, Euggene is the center ㅋㅋㅋ It’s disgusting to see this Big Bird guy push the dance line so far away

– If Ahyeonji fixes his stuttering, we finally don't have to see Big Bird, right? Phew. That's a relief.

– To be honest, he's good at dancing even at the international level. The dance line is meaningless. Big Bird, if you have a conscience, get out of there. He's mixing with Ahyeonji ㅋㅋ

– Big Bird… the substitute position…? Is pretending to be a popular guy a position? ㅎㅎ

"…"

"Let's not say that if you search like this, only cursing words come out. If it comes out collectively like this, it means that to some extent, it's really the public opinion of the fans."

Keun Sejin was calm.

I went further down on SNS and checked the overall flow again.

'…Seon Ahyeon is impressive.'

The status of Seon Ahyeon's ability had soared due to his impressive image in handling accidents with a backflip and overcoming his stuttering.

And among the same dance line, Cha Eugene was very popular and had great talent, so his center position was certain.

As a result, only Keun Sejin came out like this.

The fans who originally looked at Keun Sejin with disdain seemed to feel that point very strongly.

"Of course, it's mostly the thoughts of people who hate me… Anyway, it's true that I'm being pushed back in terms of positions."

“…”

“What Is Ahyeon’s strong point? He’s good. He’s good for the group, too. But I can’t stand being like this.”

I slowly opened my mouth.

“…So Cha Eugene?”

“Yes.”

Keun Sejin put back his smartphone.

“I have to do better than Cha Eugene on the unit stage this time.”

“…”

“I’ll be able to make a one-on-one comparison… I can’t see any other escape route, isn’t that right?”

CHAPTER 126

'…You're going to focus on dancing.'

I got the idea.

The concert unit stage would be promoted through WeTube's own content, and a public video would be released, so it would definitely get the fan's attention.

Are you really better than Cha Eugene here?

There probably wouldn't be any talks about positions like this again.

But is that possible?

"…Wouldn't you rather get a dance break on this album?"

"Haha. Even if I am pretty good… Don't you think it would have been better if it had been done by Ahyeon or Eugene?"

Keun Sejin immediately replied. It seemed he had been thinking about this situation for a long time.

'…Still, a real battle with Cha Eugene is a bit much.'

It didn't mean that Keun Sejin's abilities were not great.

'…Status window.'

I checked Keun Sejin's status window for the first time in a long time.

[Name: Lee Sejin]

Vocal: C+ (B+)

Dance: A (S)

Visual: A- (A+)

Talent: A- (A+)

Characteristic: Be quiet (B)

!Status abnormality:

The status window was very compliant. His growth was more noticeable in this award season as his 'Talent' stat entered the A-class.

'He has jack-of-all-trades abilities.'

…The problem was that, overall, Cha Eugene's ability was slightly backward compatible[1]backward compatibility is the ability of software or hardware to be compatible with older products and can be used as it is without separate modifications…

Except for vocal which was at the same level, All his stats were slightly lower than Cha Eugene's.

It would be better if he had one or two higher stats, but this… It was ambiguous.

'He's practically get eaten up by Cha Eugene.'

He had gotten an S- stat now. He even had the black hole, a crazy OP characteristic.

In addition, he was not the type to synergize with others. He was the only one who crazily stood out.

To be honest, even I, who had a completely different position, was not very inclined to perform alone with Cha Eugene.

'…Park Gommeo, it's nice to hear that bastard still ticking.'

I could already hear the sound of the reward in putting all the points and raising the dance stats disappearing.

I held my breath and looked at Keun Sejin.

"…I'll skip everything and speak frankly."

"Yes."

"Whether it's you, Seon Ahyeon, or someone else, I think it's almost impossible to stand out more than Cha Eugene in one-on-one."

"…"

"Perhaps you've thought about it, too."

It would have been better to come to room number 3 and somehow pick a part that would have drawn attention.

And yet he chose Cha Eugene… His greed and fear to prove himself seemed quite big.

Keun Sejin looked at the floor and asked dejectedly.

"…Do you think it's impossible?"

"I think… Instead of trying to beat Cha Eugene, I think we should approach it in a different direction."

At least there was one situation that seemed most probable.

“Just choose the stage properly. I don’t feel like comparing you and Cha Eugene to each other and comparing who is better.”

It meant that only talks like ‘That dance unit stage is really good’ should come out.

“In that situation, If you don’t fall behind in your parts, your dance position is certain.”

It might be difficult, but it was more doable than beating Cha Eugene on the duo stage.

“We have to make Cha Eugene cooperate on stage.”

“…Right.”

Ken Sejin nodded quite calmly. However, it was unclear how much strength he put into his clenched hands.

‘…Even my hands are shaking.’

This guy being so nervous and concerned, I had never seen it before even during <Idol Inc.>’s final.

‘It’s almost like when the rumors of his school violence broke out.’

Isn’t that a bit too much?

“Is there anything else?”

“What?”

“What I am saying right now is not about the general public opinion of the fans. I’m just talking about below the surface. You know, you seem

overly nervous."

"…"

Keun Sejin didn't say anything for a while.

Then he laughed dejectedly.

"Am I even allowed to say this… Hey, do you know why I was left out of the debut group before? It's because my position is ambiguous."

"…!"

"Just before the launch, a new kid whose parents were both actors joined all of sudden. He's well-known, so he has to be put on the team… The higher-ups said that we would make it with seven people. What was I supposed to do? One person got cut off."

"…"

"But there was one guy on the team who danced better than me, one who was younger, one who was handsome, one who sang better, and one who rapped better. We couldn't take out the leader because he was the leader, and in the end, my position was vague so I was the right person."

Keun Sejin hit his thigh with his hand.

"That's why I got left out. What was I supposed to do?… Anyway, that's why I can't let go. Even if things get louder and I didn't feel sorry for falling out, it was too much… It's funny. I was the only one who didn't have a good deal when we renewed our contract. They were saying all sorts of things…"

Keun Sejin clicked his tongue and lowered his head. He was saying things that he wouldn't have said in his normal state.

'…This is a conversation that really needs alcohol in it.'

I felt a little dizzy to hear it sober.

'Anyway, I understand the situation.'

It must have been quite a shock to have been dropped from the team right before the first debut.

Perhaps the fact that he had paid attention to the positions of 'leader' and 'main dancer' throughout <Idol Inc.> had more meaning than just taking care of the broadcasting footage.

'But how should I react?'

I was a bit flustered because I heard too much.

It's not like I could offer a solution to this story of the past. That didn't mean I was very talented in consoling people.

…There was no point. Let's just list the positive facts as I always did.

I held back my sigh and opened my mouth.

"First of all… Regardless of the position or stuff like that… The team just needs you."

"What, for entertainment shows?"

"No, to cut the gossip."

"…!"

It was sad but true.

“You know, half of our team is tactless, and more than half of them are soft-hearted. Think about it. Without you, would this team exist… What kind of situation we would be in.”

“…”

As if recalling from the one-month forced march before his debut to the recent Onyx incident, Keun Sejin was speechless for a moment.

But soon he shook his head.

“You gave almost all your opinions by yourself. I don’t think it would be a big change.”

“Well, about that, actually, I took action because I trusted you a little bit.”

“What?”

“No… I knew that if you had a worthwhile opinion, you would unconditionally set the mood.”

“…”

I felt a little awkward. I cleared my throat and continued.

“Chungwoo is the leader. But if I have to choose the person most suitable for team play, it would be you. Whether on stage, broadcast, inside or outside the team… It’s really rare for anyone to do their part in all kinds of situations.”

I finished my speech.

“A member with a good hexagonal balance is also necessary for an idol group. Well… I’m just saying.”

"…"

After hearing me out, Keun Sejin shut his mouth and turned his head in the opposite direction.

'You can't be crying, right?'

I hoped he didn't cry. It was going to be really weird.

And a moment later, Keun Sejin really couldn't resist and burst out.

Laughing, not crying.

"Ahaha! You're so cheesy right now!"

"…Are you laughing?"

"Pfft, hey, wouldn't you laugh at this situation?! A guy like Park Moondae is saying all sorts of things to console me!"

Even if this bastard gave me the best compliments, I'd be damned.

Big Sejin stopped laughing before he could be slammed with a neck pillow.

"Hahaha, really… Whoo, anyway, I get it. It's funny, but… It comforts my heart. Hey, that's amazing."

Keun Sejin smiled, then he suddenly crossed his arms and muttered in a deliberately exaggerated voice.

"But wouldn't it be useless if the fans don't know that Sejin is such a great idol? Should I get Chungwoo hyung's leader position?"

Don't pretend you're joking, you bastard.

I answered as calmly as I could.

“You already know most of it. You’re worried that the opinions you’ve seen will spread to other fans, but… In fact, on the contrary, I think you have an advantage in a long-term battle.”

“…Really?”

“Yeah. The fact that you don’t have any weaknesses will be more apparent as years accumulate.”

It was also a trend confirmed in the actual data market.

When a time came when the demand for each member fluctuated, the type that was especially good at defense was that kind of person.

Keun Sejin looked as though he couldn’t fully trust this statement. But he smiled and nodded.

“…Okay. I’ll think of it like that and do my best on stage~”

Still, he sounded sincere.

Anyway, he seemed to have made a conclusion in his mind, so he should be able to receive the characteristic effect.

[Be quiet (B)]

: Let’s not make excuses!

– Propulsion +100%

Looking at the name alone, I thought it might be a characteristic related to public opinion due to Keun Sejin’s inclination, but I was a little surprised.

‘Well, that suits him too.’

Maybe not making excuse was referring to him and everyone around him.

While preparing for this unit stage, it must have been a similar stance to Cha Eugene.

‘…He’s going to be gentle and soothing, and he’ll pick out only the elements he wants.’

I wondered how far he would go.

“Then I’ll go up now. Come up when it’s all sorted out.”

“What are you saying when you’re the one who sorted out everything? Hey, let’s go up together!”

“…”

Keun Sejin stretched forward and prepared to get out of the car.

Looking at that hand, I suddenly remembered the image of him manipulating the card.

“…Come to think of it, how did you mark the card?”

“What?”

“The card to decide the unit. The one you manipulated.”

“Ah~ Heol? Hold on.”

Keun Sejin giggled.

“Hey, I didn’t manipulate it!”

"…!"

"I remembered the scratch shape on the back while touching the card~ I'm smart… Aigoo, it's my brain's fault!"

I'm glad you didn't go as far as manipulating it… For some reason, I felt hot.

As we got out of the car and walked into the waiting room, Keun Sejin giggled a few more times.

And in front of the waiting room, he spoke a little seriously.

"Anyway… I feel more grateful. I wasn't just referring to when you tried to listen to my situation even though you thought I manipulated the card."

"…If the concert goes well, buy me a cow."

Big Sejin burst into laughter.

"Yes. Just a cow? I will buy Korean beef."

"Okay."

"…Tell me if you have any concerns."

"…"

It was my problem.

I thought about explaining my situation to these guys for a moment.

…Hmm, I guessed my activities would be suspended and I would have to make a psychiatric appointment from that day on.

As expected, I would just pretend it didn't exist.

"Yes, if I have one."

"Oh~ The confidence of not having one yet!"

Keun Sejin smiled and entered the waiting room.

Perhaps the manager had grasped the situation, he confirmed that Keun Sejin had returned in a good condition, and gave me a small thumbs-up.

'Keun Sejin can see it all.'

Anyway, the waiting time was peaceful afterward. Because all the members except Kim Raebin didn't even make eye contact with Gyrop.

And on this day, Testar won the Album of the Year 4th Quarter Award and the Rookie of the Year Award.

"Thank you very much! Last week, we celebrated our 200th day since our debut…"

While waiting for my next turn after Keun Sejin held the microphone and talked like a fluent speaker, I finally received the news I had been waiting for.

[Succesfully won the award!]

You have successfully won the Rookie of the Year Award in the recognition of the public, the 'most prestigious domestic award ceremony'!

!Time limit: Fulfilled (great success)

!Status abnormality: 'Win an award or die' removed!

: Check the truth ☚ Click!

- 1. backward compatibility is the ability of software or hardware to be compatible with older products and can be used as it is without separate modifications.

CHAPTER 127

The status abnormality related to the Rookie of the Year Award was resolved faster than expected.

‘I thought it wouldn’t happen until February.’

The fact that it was resolved as soon as I received the award at the last large awards ceremony… It meant the current public opinion was overwhelming.

It must have been the effect of breaking through the mess of the Rookie Award controversy. I didn’t know that it would reach the timing when the status abnormality was lifted.

‘Well, it’s good to be able to check quickly, but.’

I didn’t intend to click ‘Check the truth’ for a while anyway, since there was no point in getting a new status abnormality early just because it was resolved quickly.

“Thank you!”

While I was thinking about it, Keun Sejin finished his speech and moved out of his seat, giving up the seat in front of the stand mic.

That meant it was my turn.

I walked out slowly and stood in front of the microphone.

The flashing waves in front of me disturbed my vision.

It was Testar's lightstick with luminous power that could be easily seen from a distance.

'…There are overwhelmingly more of them here than at other awards ceremonies.'

Perhaps it was because VTIC was absent. I confirmed the view and brought my mouth to the microphone.

"First of all, I'd like to start by saying thank you."

I didn't mind saying my award speech, but I'd never felt the need to step out and did it.

'I am only doing this because we are taking turns.'

But now looking at it… It was a good way to express my gratitude.

"…Testar is not a group that has been prepared as a team for a long time. We, who have not been verified as a team, have put a lot of thought and effort into debuting as a group after a short preparation period."

Of course, I didn't just agonize over it, I also cursed at the company, but it was the truth without lies, anyway.

And so were the next words.

"And our driving force is… that there are people waiting for us."

…It wasn't just preparations for our debut.

The same was true for the controversy over the Rookie of the Year Award. Because I knew there were people who would respond right away when the situation turned around… I could choose such a primitive way.

Isn't it strange and amazing that there are people who wait for you and want to like you as long you come up with a good result?

"Thank you for trusting and waiting, and for looking forward to it."

Thank you for not giving up your expectations even in the midst of tiring public opinion and annoying situations.

"We will continue to do our best without forgetting our current feelings so that we can be a group that can give you excitement rather than worries when you think of tomorrow's Testar. Thank you."

I bowed my head. And for a while, I continued to express our gratitude.

Brilliant cheers poured over my head.

The sound, as powerful as the luminous power of the lightstick, somehow felt hot.

And I felt hands tapping on my back.

'It must be the members.'

Just as I tried to think positively that it would be a good picture, I heard a slightly flustered whisper.

'M-Moondae, are you okay?'

'Are you crying?'

I'm not crying.

Another whispered earnestly.

'If you want to raise your head straight, cover your face and turn around.'

Why do you think I would be too embarrassed to lift my head for crying?

‘Isn’t it normal to think that speeches get longer with emotion and gratitude?’

I held back my sigh and looked up.

Then, the lightsticks, which were as brilliant as the cheers, swayed and rippled countless times.

Somehow, it looked bigger than before, like the Milky Way.

“…”

‘That was close.’

If I raised my head without thinking, I would have burst into tears by myself.

Thanks to those who misunderstood that I was crying, I cooled down and neutralized my feeling, so I managed to avoid getting laughed at.

‘I’m breaking out in a cold sweat.’

And at the same time, I was reminded of the characteristic I had thrown away a few months ago.

[Characteristic: Faucet under the eyes (B)]

Turning on and off with ease!

: Tear control ability MAX.

A slight chill went down my spine.

'…Don't tell me I am going to need it.'

I suspected for a moment that it might be just like the strong heart that I needed as soon I threw it away… I shook my head.

'Even so, I can't give up my other characteristics for something like this.'

It was okay to get a little embarrassed.

And well, would that happen often? It was only for a day like today when complex circumstances overlapped.

'Let's just wave hands.'

I waved and bowed to the audience along with the guys who were trying to poke me in the side with an attitude that seemed to say, 'I thought you were crying!'

The light was still hot.

* * *

After the awards season was over, preparations for the concert began in earnest.

Among them, of course, there was a process of preparing for the unit stage with the camera.

[Magical Boy Testar's magical artificial intelligence secretary!]

"It's even on WeTube now."

"It's Chungwoo hyung!"

As Cha Eugene said, Ryu Chungwoo was appearing on the TV screen connected to WeTube.

With a picture of a bird's wing edited over his shoulder, Ryu Chungwoo smiled and winked and made a slight shooting motion with his index finger and thumb.

[Catch, Curious!]

It was a very normal commercial scene with Ryu Chungwoo appearing as a cheerful handsome man.

"What's this!"

"Why is hyung the only one doing something cool?"

"…You don't get that an animal image?"

Bae Sejin's last question sounded almost gloomy.

However, Ryu Chungwoo was still embarrassed by the commercial, so he only smiled and shook his head.

"Haha, it's not cool… The fans compared me with 'bird' a lot, so I guess it turned out like this."

However, the members' response was cold.

"You could've done a peep peep chick, but you did something cool."

"I was going to press skip, but I didn't have to."

"No, it's not something I decided, guys!"

Ryu Chungwoo was flustered for a moment but soon realized that it was a reaction from light resentment, so he laughed and looked at the situation as something adorable and moved on.

'…It must be nice to have a hawk as an animal image.'

Someone had pushed for a puppy and it became like that.

I quickly shrugged off my commercial cuts that came to mind and focused on the video playing.

[Je te donne des fleurs que…]

A slow and beautiful chanson was flowing on the screen. It was a unit song chosen by Kim Raebin and Ryu Chungwoo.

Keun Sejin asked with inertial admiration.

“Oh, you want to use that song?”

“Yes.”

Kim Rabin nodded and his eyes twinkled.

“I think it’s a melody that goes well with Chungwoo hyung’s voice. If you change the rhythm to kitsch, leaving only the sound of the keyboard instrument, it will be a very sensual instrument…!”

“Yeah. I’m looking forward to it because Raebin seems to be having fun.”

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and nodded.

I could guess what kind of atmosphere this team had.

‘You’re letting Raebin go crazy.’

Since it was a unit stage anyway, Ryu Chungwoo didn’t make conservative judgments and seemed to fully accept Kim Raebin’s ideas.

‘It will be an entertaining picture.’

How interesting.

And next, Cha Eugene was excited and searched for the video and played it.

An old pop song was played based on the brown album cover.

'...Why a pop song?'

I thought it would too advantageous for Korean-American Cha Eugene, but soon I realized that it wasn't the case.

Perhaps, after taking a composition that was considerate of Cha Eugene, Keun Sejin picked the song that he wanted.

'If that guy makes concessions in this game, he'll go to a castle[1]It is an expression used to emphasize the claim that something is unlikely to come true, or to boast that it is certain to happen.'

It was already a divided castle, but he bet on it one more time.

When Keun Sejin met my eyes, he furrowed his eyebrows as if he couldn't see me. Perhaps it was true that the pop song was induced by me.

"I love this song! I look forward to it!"

"Yes, let's make a great stage~"

"Make it!"

Cha Eugene excitedly raised his hand, and Keun Sejin responded with an exhilarating high-five.

'Well, both of them are satisfied.'

There didn't seem to be any problem so far.

“T-Then… I’ll play the song we chose…!”

“Yeah~”

The last group was me, Bae Sejin, and Seon Ahyeon.

Seon Ahyeon came forward and operated the WeTube screen according to the script.

Then a rustic and laid-back band accompaniment began to play out.

[U! I can hear your heart~]

“Huh?”

Looking at the other groups who were a little bewildered, I explained with a smile.

“It’s Miso sunbae-nim’s <You’re Amazing>.”

It was a song by a female solo singer who was active in the late ’80s. Moderately bright, moderately emotional.

The chorus of this song, ‘Woooooo~ Amazing!’, was so well known that even teenagers or 20-year-olds had heard it at least once in variety shows.

But that was just it.

For a song that would be used at the latest concert, it must have seemed out of place in both the impact and atmosphere.

Ryu Chungwoo looked a little shocked.

“You three are going to sing this song?”

“Yes.”

I nodded nonchalantly, and the other two teammates affirmed with slightly flushed faces.

Ryu Chungwoo looked at their faces and then barely nodded.

“Okay… Did Moondae choose it?”

“…? No. Seon Ahyeon and Sejin hyung chose it.”

The two of them put it on the candidate list first, and after discussing it, we chose it together.

“…Um, I see.”

Ryu Chungwoo nodded straight away, but it was clear that he was hiding his worries.

‘If it weren’t for the camera, he would have already asked if this would be okay.’

Not noticing the sign, Seon Ahyeon just muttered with an excited face.

“I-I think it’ll go well with us, so I’m already looking forward to it!”

Bae Sejin also looked hesitant about whether he should say something, but eventually, he opened his mouth while looking at the camera.

“…I think it’s going to be a great performance, so you can look forward to it.”

Ryu Chungwoo’s face relaxed after seeing the rare positive expression from those two.

I didn't know if he liked it, but he must have thought there was something attractive about this song.

Ryu Chungwoo looked at me for the last time. And asked with a look of final certainty.

"…Are you also confident, Moondae?"

"It's hard to be confident on any stage. I'll do my best to complete it."

"…"

"Let's all do our best!"

"Let's do our best!"

"Testar, fighting!"

As soon as the filming was over, Ryu Chungwoo asked, 'Is it really okay?' three times, and I nodded my head three times.

Only then did Ryu Chungwoo disappear to make coffee with a somewhat relieved face.

'I shouldn't have messed around.'

I was thinking of messing around with him for avoiding the commercial Russian roulette alone, but it worked better than expected because he was a guy with a strong sense of responsibility.

'Actually, what I'm concerned about is something else.'

My concern was… the stage for the new song.

'It's the song's first performance at a concert before the song even comes out yet.'

The title track and the b-side track. We had to make the audience enjoy listening to two songs that were unfamiliar and unverified to the public.

It was important to drag it out so that the atmosphere didn't deteriorate.

"……Hmm."

After thinking about it, I came up with a short and clear answer.

'Let's pour out our capital.'

Fortunately, the company had a lot of money.

* * *

When Testar was busy preparing for concerts and new albums.

Finally, the date of the concert was announced.

==========

[Concert notice is up]

: Two-day weekend schedule from March 30th to 31st

(notice photo)

==========

– Crazycrazy finally a concert

– Aaaah

– Heol, it's true

– Ah, please give me a spotㅠㅠ

– A concert 9 months after their debut. What in the world are our kids doing?

– I won't ask for much. I really wish I could go thereㅠㅠ

– I already imagine holding a lightstick and singing a fan song

Fans were already excited because it was confirmed that the agency had rented the gymnastics stadium.

And the moment their expectation came true, people screamed of joy and immediately started preparing to buy tickets.

– For local Loviewers who are going to the concert, hurry up and book a lodging so you can relax. The reservation will quickly fill up and the price will rise a lotㅠㅠ

– Where can I check Afterpark's server time?

– Is there anything else we can prepare for the fan club's pre-sale tickets?

– I want to grab the standing area. I'm so desperate.

But before they could calmly start preparing to buy tickets, news poured in.

– Heol, they're saying we will book the new album starting next month. (notice link)

└?? What

└Suddenly?

.

└Are they already announcing their comeback on April 1st?

└Heol, it's the day after the concert.

└A comeback as soon as the concert is over? It's good that there is a lot of content… Yeah…

Fans were already baffled there, but the news wasn't over yet.

– There's an article… It said the new song will be released for the first time at the concert (article link)

└What…?

└No, what's going on

└So they will perform the new song for the first time at the concert even before the music video comes out?

└If I can't go to that crazy concert, I'm going to go crazy…

There were more.

– At Testar's first concert, they're going to perform unit stages, and they're going to reveal the stage production as reality content on WeTube. (interview link)

└Yes?

└Suddenly too many things happened ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└They're going to make a reality show and unit stages?

└It's too good to be true, can T-One do it…?

Fans frantically struggled to digest the news, but only one fact was firmly established.

‘The competition for the concert is going to be crazy high!’

And in this whirlwind of chaos and tension. Testar uploaded an SNS post.

==========

[Testar finally has their first concert! > _ < Will you come to see us?ㅠㅠ We are also going to try to buy a ticket together with Loviewer!]

==========

There was no crazier challenge than this.

- 1. It is an expression used to emphasize the claim that something is unlikely to come true, or to boast that it is certain to happen

CHAPTER 128

“Are you all ready?”

“Of course~”

“Do it right away!”

Answers filled with confidence responded to Ryu Chungwoo’s question.

There were only us and the staff in the rented PC room for this ‘Concert Ticket Purchase by Testar’ content.

And the guys, each with a PC, sat there with faces that seemed to be dying of joy, as if shouting, ‘We’re going to have a concert soon!’.

“The seats we reserve today will be sent to Loviewer along with our autographs through a lottery!”

“I’ll try to get a good spot!”

There was tension, but I couldn’t find solemnity.

‘They must have thought they’ll get a corner seat in the worst-case scenario.’

In fact, in their opinion, it was only natural because 26,000 people could be mobilized for both days this time.

In other words, there were 13,000 seats available for each day of the concert.

There was a strange conviction among them, saying, ‘Can’t you even get one out of 13,000 when you’re trying to book a ticket with the latest computer?’.

But of course, I was skeptical.

‘I think they’re all going to fail.’

I could tell just by listening to their conversation.

“Oh, it opens at 8 o’clock… We can go in right at 8, right?”

“I think so.”

“I want to be on the first floor!”

“…”

It would end with loading at the entry without even being able to look at the seat screen.

At best, there would be one or two who took the back seats.

‘…As expected, I have to get it.’

If we all failed, the picture would be weird.

For diversity, it would be better for one or two to succeed.

But actually, I’d rarely ever been to a concert myself. How many times I had received a one-on-one order at most and pulled out the data?

However, if it was proxy ticketing, I’d tried that quite a few times.

And the odds were good.

‘It was nice to get an expensive meal.’

I quit because the probability of getting caught in the law was too high.

Proxy ticketing was not a gray area, it was just plain crime.

Anyway, I thought it was possible again this time.

Then, sitting next to me, Seon Ahyeon quietly spoke. Looking at the screen, it seemed he had finally accessed the ticketing site.

“M-Moondae. Which area are you going to pick?”

“Hmm… I’m thinking of trying section 8 on the 2nd floor.”

“S-Second floor?”

“Aren’t you trying to make it too easy~?”

“Let’s take the first floor together!”

Those who overheard the conversation came to meddle. They poured out brave remarks, unaware of the reality.

However, Seon Ahyeon nodded eagerly.

“T-Then me too… 2nd floor? H-How do I do it?”

The attitude of acknowledging his lack of experience and seeking advice clearly stood out.

‘…Shall I tell you what I know?’

I simply gave him advice on server time and site settings.

“Once you enter this site and click on the Afterpark address…”

“Oh, Moondae is teaching something!”

“I want to listen too!”

“I’d like to know.”

“…The server time of the booking site comes out, and you can think of the booking time based on that.”

There were a lot of interruptions. I was done talking.

“I-I got it!”

Seon Ahyeon immediately operated his PC, and soon after, the Afterpark server time appeared along with the server name.

[Magical Boy Testar’s Magic seat already selected]

[February 26th 19:47:49]

“Oh!”

The guys got excited and copied the site. Ryu Chungwoo and Bae Sejin started snooping around and learning how to do it.

‘Hmm, it’s better than coming in blindfolded.’

There were only 10 minutes left until the ticket sales started. I quickly briefed on what I knew.

“And the booking site opens several tabs for each web browser, and from 59 seconds right before the time is up…”

By the time the summary explanation was over, they started to feel a little solemn.

“I-It takes a lot of preparation…”

“If Moondae hadn’t investigated, we could all have failed, right?”

I guessed it was because my explanations were more detailed than they thought and the nuances were tinged with urgency.

And the atmosphere intensified as the announced time approached.

“There are three minutes left.”

“Gasp.”

“Let’s find a good spot and send it to Loviewers~”

“I’ll do my best!”

“F-Fighting…!”

It seemed they had already forgotten that even if they didn’t manage to catch one, the tickets would still go to Loviewers.

Well, if you did make a mistake, you could go to the proxy ticketing… There was a possibility of supplementation probability.

I shrugged and fixed the mouse.

In the camera’s blind spot, the staff gestured to give a countdown signal.

“10! 9! 8!…… 3! 2! 1!”

Speaking along with numbers with my mouth, I started refreshing the tabs one by one right before the time was up.

“…!”

And… nothing happened.

Because the screen froze.

‘It’s over.’

No, really, there was no other way to explain it.

Endless loading continued on all tabs. I thought it would change if the traffic eased up a bit, so I went back and forth in the browser for about seven minutes to watch the situation more, but nothing changed.

The surroundings were noisy, too. It seemed no one had seen the page.

‘I think this server has crashed.’

I threw away my PC and turned on the mobile app.

[41,502 people are on standby]

It was a sentence of defeat.

“…”

I tried to refrain from using my phone because I was in the middle of filming, but checking the app late was a mistake…

‘…I failed?’

Not the other guys. I… didn’t even get a single spot?

I couldn’t believe it.

‘…I had also succeeded in the VTIC concert.’

Even though it was three years ago, they were still top tier…!

At that time, the server had crashed, but I still remember how I had changed the tab and pushed in.

But I didn't know why it didn't work right now.

'…It's the ticket for my concert.'

To be honest, I was a bit flustered.

I checked my PC and app again a few more times before accepting the reality in front of the empty screen.

'It can't be helped.'

…It was a pity that I couldn't send a ticket, though.

Even someone like me was helpless, so the chances of others making it were extremely low…

"O-Oh?"

At that moment, sitting next to me, Seon Ahyeon started to move his mouse with a shriek.

Looking at it, his screen had gone over to the payment window.

"…!"

"Heol, did Ahyeon make it?"

"What kind of trick did you use?!"

"I-I don't know… I-I did as Moondae told me…!"

Seon Ahyeon responded to the crowd with a flustered face but began to take steps as instructed.

After entering the personal information that he had copied in advance, he selected the payment method and moved on to the next page.

Even the location was scheduled in the middle of the second floor.

“Wow, awesome!”

“Ahyeon has succeeded.”

“…I’m glad. At least one person made it.”

The members had already entered a celebratory atmosphere, tapping Sun Ahyeon on the shoulder.

“…”

However, I looked bitterly at Seon Ahyeon’s screen.

Keun Sejin suddenly hit my back.

“Wow, Moondaemoondae, are you upset that Ahyeon is the only one who succeeded when you prepared hard?”

Seon Ahyeon was taken aback.

“I-It’s because Moondae taught me well…! I-It’s no different from what Moondae did…”

“No, it’s not that…”

Seon Ahyeon’s PC screen changed before I could explain it.

Sure enough, the phrase came up.

[An error occurred while the payment was in progress.]

"…"

"…"

There was a deadly silence. I knew this would happen.

'…The loading was too long.'

If the loading was too short or too long, it usually ended up like this.

Seon Ahyeon could not accept the situation and stood firm. The other guys also didn't seem to have come back to their senses.

'…There must be quite a lot of votes that bounced off the payment stage.'

I checked some of the ticketing pages again just in case.

There was only a white screen still remaining.

*'Sh*t.'*

Is there anyone who succeeded?

It seemed that the server went down because the ticketing site had failed to predict the traffic, but then that meant everyone could have been looking at the same screen.

I guessed calmly.

'Maybe there are a lot of people who haven't booked the tickets properly yet.'

Of course not.

The booking page that was finally accessible 3 minutes later proved it.

[0 seats]

“…”

A surprising number of people had succeeded in booking through this trashy server.

“Really?”

“This is the end…?”

It was over.

And like a lie, articles about the sold-out tickets started popping up.

[All tickets for Testar’s first concert are sold out]

[26,000 seats sold out… Testar’s concert even caused a server failure]

[Testa’s first concert, only 10 minutes for all tickets to get sold out on both days]

That’s right.

I just… lost to the fans in ticketing.

That I couldn’t even look at the seats was a completely terrible defeat.

Data seller 1 extra lose…

* * *

Testar’s first concert.

Fans were full of expectations and happiness, but it wasn’t big news to the public. Because they usually went to idol concerts without thinking

much about it.

Furthermore, Testar had announced the date of their comeback. As the attention was focused on this news, the concert itself seemed to pass quietly without much objection.

…Until Testar's failed ticketing video was uploaded.

==========

[Idols who got wiped out after trying to get tickets for their own concertㅋㅋㅋ.jpg]

: Seon Ahyeon, who went all the way to the payment window, also got an error and it was over for himㅋㅋㅋ

Testar's souls leaving their bodies (screenshot)

==========

– Oh my goshㅋㅋㅋ

– They're almost sobbingㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It's funnier when you watch the video. Testar was about to go crazy.

– It's hilarious that they apologized at the end for not having any tickets to send. I thought it was a thumbnail of some WeTuber's apology videos ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It's the server's faultㅠㅠㅋㅋㅋ

-Testar who was confident the day before yesterday and declared war (screenshot)

ㄴㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└Reality: power outage

– No, it's so cute and relatable ㅋㅋㅋ

– My kids went through the same thing as me! But you guys will be at the concert, right? I… don't have… a ticket…

└Aah… ㅠㅠ

└Good luck with canceling the reservation…

Testar's ticketing fiasco became a hot topic in a funny sense because it had failed so spectacularly.

In particular, the reactions to the member who had failed despite having prepared his best kept pouring out.

That member was Park Moondae.

– But Park Moondae really did enough. I didn't know he'd turn on a multi-browser and the app ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└I think he would have gotten one, but he was out of luck with the server… But it was cute that he got so shocked ㅎ

– Since the days of Park Moondae's chicken feet, he always looks like he was just going to do it in moderation, so why is he so serious about all the activities? ㅋㅋ

└If you pretend to be calm and fail, it's best to break down ㅠ

└As if on purpose

└Why would a handsome main vocalist do that, hater…

– Moon Puppy is not at fault. The fault lies with the Afterpark server.

– Park Moondae was so excited with his self-investigation that his eyes were sparkling like a puppy when he shared it, but after he failed, he turned into a Tibetan fox ㅋㅋㅋ

└ㅅㅂㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└As expected, the puppy is only for external use. When the Tibetan fox emoticon comes out, the trend will turn over.

People mingled with the fans and talked about Park Moondae and Testar's cuteness for a long time.

Fans enjoyed the warm and cute atmosphere of the sales, but at the same time, they cried over the poor ticketing server and its failure.

Then, an unexpected effect occurred.

Testar's concert-related content was also drawing attention.

– Oh, are they going to release the unit stage on WeTube? If it comes up, please upload it here. It reminds me of Idol Inc and makes me want to reminisce

– The new song is also released for the first time there, so it seems they are preparing a lot for Testar's concert ㅋㅋㅋ

└ I think that's why when this ticketing event failed, they got even more depressed ㅋㅋㅋ

└I was going to send you a ticket, but I don't have one…!

└That's so funny ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ I'll look forward to how the concert is going to be held ㅋㅋㅋ

And before the atmosphere subsided, concert trailer videos and unit stage production reality poured into WeTube.

Even the VOD service announcement was posted early, absorbing the overflowing demand for the concert.

The atmosphere was at its peak.

– T1 actually works properly. What's going on?

– I'm going crazy, looking forward to the concert

– We did a good job changing the directorㅠㅠ

Thanks to this, the fans greeted the first day of the concert with excitement and anticipation.

CHAPTER 129

“Are there a lot of people?”

“There are so many!”

“Even though there are still more than eight hours left before the performance starts, I see a lot of people gathering and chatting…!”

Kim Raebin and Cha Eugene, who had pretended to go to the bathroom and spied outside, chatted excitedly.

The members on stage either covered their faces or took deep breaths.

“Whoa…”

“You can hear all the rehearsals.”

Right. They were on the stage for the concert rehearsal.

Idols on overseas tours sold tickets including the rehearsal tickets, but fortunately, this one wasn’t like that.

If the rehearsal was revealed at the first concert, they would have been 10 times more nervous than they were now.

Of course, even now, everyone was in high spirits.

“Let’s do our best. I’ll show them how much I have practiced.”

“That’s right!”

“Really… We really have practiced a lot.”

Bae Sejin’s face turned a little pale.

It seemed he was reminiscing about the last practice period.

‘It was a bit harsh.’

It wasn’t just once or twice that I had thought my physical strength and lung capacity would not last.

Thanks to that, I brought a bicycle machine to the dorm. Because it was a unanimous consensus that the time to receive PT was not enough.

In the meantime, in the unit stage production reality, I had to keep up a lively appearance, so it was not an ordinary job.

‘…But this day has finally come.’

I wasn’t regretful or anxious. The preparations were all set.

And that would be the same for the others.

“Right. This time, let’s go and believe in the amount of practice.”

“Yes!”

In that solid atmosphere, Keun Sejin stealthily raised his hand.

“Shall we shout our slogan~?”

“Slogan?”

“You know~”

“…Ah.”

Exclamation marks appeared on the faces of the guys who finally realized what he was talking about.

Then, our hands gathered together.

“Ah, Testar will show it to you today!”

“Let’s go!”

…It was a phrase that equivalently exchanged the embarrassment with the atmosphere, but it worked.

“Are you going from the opening?”

The rehearsal went smoothly without any problems.

There really wasn’t much time left until all the empty seats were filled.

* * *

It was crowded in front of the gymnastics stadium. There might be a lot of reasons for this, but one of the main reasons was because of the purchase of concert-related products.

‘I got all the MDs!’

Park Moondae’s homma also stood in line with both hands full of shopping bags. It was evidence of a successful hunt.

Besides, they were all good quality!

In particular, the shiny parts set that could be customized by attaching it to the lightstick was very pretty.

At the time of pre-purchase, it had already been confirmed through SNS that it was already sold out with just the image cut.

‘They’re doing better than I thought.’

Recently, many fans had softened due to T1’s move that properly showed the taste of large companies.

In addition, after they selected this and that properly, some people gradually turned amicable toward them.

But the homma pulled herself together.

‘…Let’s not let our guard down.’

Because the concert Blu-ray might confirm that all these things were drafted by the kids.

But she couldn’t help but feel excited about it.

‘Doesn’t it seem like they’ve prepared hard?!’

She was looking forward to the concert so much that she had a smile all over her face. The reward that only those who had tickets could feel was already flooding in.

Besides, her seat… It was section 8 on the 2nd floor!

It was the spot that Park Moondae had tried to challenge, but failed without even trying.

‘Moondae, I’m sitting here…!’

Originally, she was thinking of getting a spot exchange so that the fancam would come out well, but as soon as she saw Testar’s ticketing video, she thought it was fate and decided to accept it.

‘Let’s film more tomorrow!’

It was something she could afford because she had a ticket for tomorrow as well.

“Excuse me, would you like this…?”

“Gasp, thank you!”

She received snacks and a small photo postcard prepared by Kim Raebin’s fan who was sitting next to her.

As she chatted and checked the situation on SNS, time flew by in an instant.

It was time for the concert to begin.

The announcement rang the hall.

“…Whoo.”

Park Moondae’s homma skillfully took out the camera and hid it with her luggage.

At that moment, the lights in the hall went dark.

“…!”

The light from the huge screen poured into the place where the buzz of people suddenly stopped.

Whoo-

What filled the screen… were seven figures lying in a circle on the classroom floor.

They were Testar.

Woooow!

The video unfolded with cheers.

The faces of Testar waking up on the floor were zoomed in one by one, and the next moment, bubbles passed over their heads.

The members chased the bubbles and lightly flew out of the classroom window where the sunlight poured.

And then, snap, the screen shut down.

♫♪♩♪-♫♪♫♪-♪♩-

The concert hall darkened again. A familiar melody rang in a more splendid variation.

And suddenly, the scene was filled with pouring bubbles and sparkling lights from the lightsticks.

"…!"

In that fantastic space that was shimmering with purple lighting, Park Moondae's intro of 'Magical Boy' began to play out.

– *I think of you, whom I met tomorrow, all-day*

Figures on wires began to descend from the ceiling.

"…!"

All seven Testar appeared on wires from all sides.

The idols entrusted themselves to the stage equipment and began to spin around the hall.

– But reality is breathing, All the time…

Above her head, Seon Ahyeon was flying away while singing his part.

‘Crazy!’

Screaming cheers poured from everywhere.

Aaaaagh!

A gentle breeze blew from the spot where Seon Ahyeon had passed, tickling her head.

She got goosebumps.

‘Moondae, What about Moondae?’

Park Moondae was passing by the standing area, a little away from her.

‘That spot will be my zone tomorrow!’

His blonde hair was caught on screen. Park Moondae was smiling lightly.

‘Fairy! Please stay there tomorrow too…!!’

She cried and picked up the camera.

– Cast a spell

Right before the chorus of the second verse, Testar gathered on the center stage in a small section.

And they got off the equipment and started the chorus choreography.

The decorations of the school uniform costumes, which were much more colorful than those in the music video, sparkled in the lights.

And without a chance to catch her breath, the accompaniment was connected like a storm, followed by the next song. It was the title of the second activity, ‘Airplane’.

– *My heart is pounding, I want to send you somewhere*

Testar flew in with the wire from the opening and in an instant, they wiped out all the title tracks they had on the first stage.

‘Oh, my God.’

She had a strong feeling that whatever the next composition was, they would let it be immersed first.

But the atmosphere was certain.

With only hit songs coming out one after another, the audience was excitedly filled with adrenaline before they could get worried about the composition of the second half of the performance.

That was how Testar’s first concert began.

* * *

Testar sang one more low-pitched ballad from the ‘Choose Your Side’ album and then proceeded with a light talk.

[Whoo, did you enjoy the opening?]

Yes!!!

The slightly echoing voices were filled with positive answers that sounded as though they would rip apart the concert hall.

The person speaking up, Ryu Chungwoo, seemed a little taken aback by the momentum, but soon he smiled and nodded.

'I keep seeing him, so he looks cute.'

While giving the generous review, the homma's eyes and camera were focused on Park Moondae.

Park Moondae handed over the water bottle he drank to Seon Ahyeon next to him and waved his hand in a greeting.

[Hello, Loviewer. This is Moondae… I hope you have a fun and exciting time today.]

'So cute!'

She could see his effort to purposefully reproduce his SNS tone. However, he was quite embarrassed, so his ears turned red.

'Our puppy mustered up the courage…!'

As she was crying and holding the camera, she heard a murmur from next to her.

"So cute…"

"…"

The person next to her was definitely Kim Raebin's fan.

In any case, it meant that Moondae was just that destructively cute, so she decided to think about it warm-heartedly.

[This performance~ I think everyone has already seen how hard we prepare!]

[It’s the first unit performance!]

The members looked nervous, but they easily talked with excited faces.

[Ah, which team performs first? That’s… a secret!]

[Secret!]

After several more rounds of playful jeers from the mischievous fans and Testar’s laughing comments, Testar finally prepared to go down the stage.

[Is everyone ready? So who will be better, please look forward to it!]

[It’ll be revealed soon!]

Then, Testar waved their hand and ran backstage.

It was only after they purposefully showed it that all the lights went off and the video started playing on the screen again.

[Bambam!]

[Ta-da!]

The two who bowed their heads… were Cha Eugene and Keun Sejin!

‘Here already??’

She had thought that the units that mainly performed dance performances would appear in the second half due to the composition of the atmosphere.

Besides, there was also ‘that’ Cha Eugene.

Cha Eugene who smashed the stage, Cha Eugene the solo-stan makers!

'…Ei, whatever. It's not like it's Moondae who is coming out!'

She shrugged and leaned her back against the backrest. She thought of watching it leisurely because Moondae didn't come out.

'Well, Cha Eugene flies around… Sejin can dance well too, right?'

From what she remembered watching them on the WiTube reality show, it seemed they were going to perform a famous and old jazz-style R&B pop song.

The cute VCR where the two were giggling was also over quickly.

[So our concept is… What is it, Eugene?]

[Outlaw in the Wilderness!]

With Cha Eugene's last words, the screen blacked out.

And the screen that popped up again… It truly showed a desolate wilderness.

'Huh?'

It was a scene that you usually would see in a typical American Western.

Bam Bam Bam Barabararararabam

The prelude began to play out. A picture appeared on the screen with a much more pleasant saxophone rhythm than the original song.

[WANTED]

[$100,000,000]

It was a bounty poster. Humorous cartoon caricatures of those two were attached to the video.

– *Who's next?*

The moment when Cha Eugene's voice, mixed with a nasal tone, sharply threw out a verse.

Those two jumped up at the same time from under both ends of the center stage.

And they rushed at each other.

"…!"

The two of them sprinted from left and right, crossing the choreography as if gliding toward each other, then magically jerked themselves up and looked back at each other again.

Both tall men were wearing leather pants, loose shirts, tight vests, and cowboy hats.

However, Cha Eugene's clothes were light brown, and Keun Sejin's were dark brown.

– *Now~ You have to know*

What is right D'oh

What is left

The two tossed their hats at the same time.

With Keun Sejin's vocals bouncing along with the pleasant pop song, dancers dressed in black appeared behind the two who were laughing crookedly.

Then, the two of them took out a rope from their waistband and lifted it.

"…?!"

Aggressive military dance unfolded from all sides.

Cha Eugene and Keun Sejin began to knock the dancers down one by one with strange and lively movements using their feet and ropes.

The movements were similar to the dancers' choreography, but also tailored to each other. There was always a part where the same movements were performed at the same timing for each verse.

So the sense of unity on the stage was smoothly maintained.

It was a feat that made people open their mouths wide.

– *Take my gun and*

Babababababa-by Say

Goodbye!

The moment they entered the chorus, the two tore off their vests and threw them behind.

Then, a hidden costume element was revealed.

It was a holster with a gun.

– *Oh my~*

The two continued the choreography, pointing guns at each other with one hand.

The choreography, which was organically connected and kept changing its position, was quite musical, but at the same time, one hand was restricted and other movements became more radical.

And lastly.

The choreography ended with the action of shooting each other's guns away.

– *Say Goooodbye~~*

Over the sound of drum rolls and frantic saxophones, the two slowly lifted their missing hats and made elaborate gestures like a greeting.

And slowly disappeared down the stage.

-Yay ha!

Even before the last verse of the song came out, the concert hall was already filled with screams.

'Heol.'

At the stage that passed by so quickly that she got so immersed without any time to comment, Park Moondae's homma tried to close her mouth

'It was great… '

As soon as they said the keyword 'Outlaw in the Wilderness', it turned into a stage with an intense composition that captured elements that the audience would have expected.

'…Let's upload this performance cut on April Fool's Day.'

She thought calmly, saying that the cut of throwing the vest came out well.

And like her, the stage left a deep impression in the minds of most of the audience who watched the first unit stage.

Not the individual members, but the stage itself.

It was a decisive victory for Keun Sejin.

* * *

‘The unit stage just ended.’

While I was waiting after changing my costume, I could hear cheers echoing all the way down the stage.

“T-Those two must have done a great job!”

Seon Ahyeon smiled brightly.

I nodded.

‘…I’m sure he didn’t get pushed back.’

Well, I wasn’t really worried about Keun Sejin.

Because a few days ago, when I was out of the shower, I heard the full story of the song selection.

– Moondae, can I tell you something funny?

– What?

– I practiced my basic skill with this song. Ever since I joined the agency as a trainee.

–…

– So whenever I practice alone, I end up using that.

–… How long?

– Well… Maybe eight years? Haha.

To put it simply, Cha Eugene was stuck with the song that this guy had been playing for 8 years.

Of course, just holding on to that song for a long time didn't mean that you could perform that song well.

However, considering Keun Sejin's characteristic, he must have already picked out all the performances that could be selected by tearing all the elements of the song.

There, he must have tempted Cha Eugene while only picking the parts he thought were good, so the result was obvious.

'A good stage came out in the direction that Keun Sejin is good at.'

In addition, Keun Sejin added one more device.

'…There was no solo part.'

On that unit stage, there wasn't any part where someone moved solo.

They moved together unconditionally.

And in almost every part where the two of them moved together, Keun Sejin didn't recklessly take their gazes away.

Because the stage was organized organically so that it would be less fun to see only one person.

Of course, whatever he did, it would be useless if he didn't have the skills. But Keun Sejin was talented.

So perhaps, the whole strategy worked.

'…He's a really smart guy.'

I nodded inwardly.

Of course, I didn't have time to pay more attention to other people's unit performances.

"O-Our stage… Since it's our second time, let's do our best, too!"

It was my turn soon.

CHAPTER 130

People who couldn't get tickets for Testar's concert appeared everywhere.

– I'm looking for tickets for the last concert on the 31st. Of course, there isn't anyㅠ

– Please make an additional schedule. Even if it's during working hours, it's fine

– I don't have a ticket, but I just look around onceㅎ. There are so many people like me, it's funnyㅋㅋㅋ Actually, it's not funny (photo)

There were so many, many of them.

In addition, including those interested in the concert, the number doubled.

– Ah Testar's concert is today?

They didn't have any intention to book the ticket but they were curious about the stage.

Because Testar's ticketing video became a hot topic for a while, the public awareness that was already formed with <Idol Inc.> was able to reach the concert.

Thanks to this, the concert was being broadcasted as recordings or low-definition mobile phone videos on all kinds of communities and SNS.

– Oh wire

– Park Mundae is really good at live

– Is that Seon Ahyeon that just passed by above? It was so cool, but the person who was recording shook the screen, so I couldn't see it well… That's too bad

Of course, it was illegal, but the quality was not good enough to affect the demand for concert VOD anyway, so this atmosphere sneakily slipped by.

As a result, even people who didn't go to the concert could talk to their heart's content about Testar's concert.

– They already finished the title tracks? What are they going to do with the second half of the concert?

– Let me know when the b-sides are over ㅋㅋㅋ

-Testar is dancing really hard. As expected, the first concert is good. The first concert anniversary is like this… ㅎ

– Wow, the color of the stage ㅋㅋㅋ T1 spent some money ㅋㅋ

Of course, it wasn't just people with favorable interests.

– Ah… Testar's live is worse than I thought ㅠ I was looking forward to the stage so much, but it's so sloppy. I'll have to consider the broadcast editing from now on.

└Where are you, bastard?

└You're a very good judge as someone who is only overhearing the broadcast ㅋㅋㅋ

└Why are the fans so aggressive? Stop silencing them

.

└Why would you find Testar's fans here?ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└They're busy running to the concert but here you are, pulling hair alone

└Hey, let's take a look at this, the quality is too bad

Aggro attempts were repeatedly blocked.

Because unless it was really a failure, there was a limit to talking about one's skills through pirate videos that were not officially broadcasted.

But interestingly enough, what the members were really good at was clearly obvious.

– What's with the cowboyㅋㅋㅋ It's awesome.

– It hit just right

– I knew this stage would be fun since the moment I saw the forming of the unit team, it's the dance lineㅇㅇ

– I really want to see this.

After the first unit stage was over, the favorable reviews for the stage led to expectations for the next unit stage.

But it didn't last long.

– What are the rest of the units going to doㅋㅋㅋ

– There's no telling who's next. Is it Chungwoo-Raebin or Moondae-Ahyeon-Baese?

└Either of the two lol

.

└Oh, I don’t know what performance they’re going to do.

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㄹㅇ

└I watched the reality show, but I couldn’t guess. Both of them chose some old song.

Because it was a combination of members whose main positions didn’t overlap, no specific picture was drawn.

Therefore, expectations for the next unit stage faded as they reacted to the next stage.

– Bill will come out.

– Was that a giant golden flag just now? Is that Cha Eugene who got on it? They’re preserving the taste of real capital.

– Wow, they will perform the 127 collaboration song too, niceㅠㅠ

– It would be nice if they release the music of the band’s live arrangement

– Testar, did you even rest? The group dance continuously keeps up

People were immersed in the concert broadcast, enjoying the group stage of intense performances that continued after a ballad.

It was around this time that the mid-talk began again.

However, there were only two people holding the microphone.

– ??

– Where is everyone?

– Is that Cha Eugene and Keun Sejin?

Even if they were breathing heavily, those two opened their mouths with big smiles.

[He-Hello, huft!]

[Haa, huft, it hurts inside here! But it feels great!]

[Eugene is out of breath, but he's happy to see everyone!]

[That's right!]

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋCha Eugene is so cute, he's the best

– Catch your breath before speaking ㅋㅋㅋ

– It reminds me of Idol Incㅠㅠ

└Can you let go of Idol Inc now…

Among the audience who actively responded with all sorts of positive reactions, the two announced the next stage after exchanging light jokes.

[Next is…]

[Next!]

[It's the second unit stage~!]

The two laughed and ran down the stage, leaving a message 'See the details on the screen' to the cheering audience.

Then a few seconds later, three people appeared on the screen.

[Is the screen on?]

The features of the screen were clearly visible even to the people who peeped through the broadcast.

– It's Park Moondae's unit

– Ooh

– I wonder what they're going to show

– Seon Ahyeon's dance, Park Moondae's song, Bae Sejin's… Acting…?

ㄴㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– What the hell did you prepare… It's most likely a vocal performance centered on Park Moondae.

– Because of the song they chose, I think it would be super boringㅠㅠ

People waited for the second unit's VCR to end, adding one word at a time.

[The song we prepared… Miso sunbae-nim's <You're Amazing>]

[Let's start now!]

After the three of them waved their hands, the screen turned off.

And a little later.

The broadcast screen began to shake like crazy.

-???

– What's this?

– What’s wrong with the broadcast?

At the same time, the sound of ‘Huh? Huh?’ passed by in an instant, filled with cheers and screams that seemed as though they were about to burst.

The shouts turned to low-pitched sounds, creating tremendous noise to the point they couldn’t hear the singing voice properly

– Heol, what’s this?

– Am I the only one who finds the broadcast weird?

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋLook at this reaction

– No what did they do

– Did they strip?

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋAh, are you crazy?

– I’m so curious. Crazyㅠㅠㅠ

The people who watched the concert through the broadcast were surprised and excited by the huge reaction.

They didn’t know what it was, but it was certain that something great had happened.

Even some video broadcasts were cut off altogether.

– Wahㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Where did the broadcast go

– They must have dropped the phone, the screen turned blankㅋㅠ

– Who knows what's going on ㅠㅠ

– I can only hear screams on the sound broadcast ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Amidst the reactions full of confusion, a post containing the circumstance was finally uploaded.

==========

[Crazy Park Moondae]

The last thing I saw before the broadcast went off

(Photo)

==========

Park Moondae in the attached photo… He was wearing a shiny pink sequined ribbon strap!

* * *

Inside the gymnastics stadium where the concert was being held.

The second unit's stage began with a spotlight on phone booths.

Screech.

The three telephone booths were in quiet pastel tones, raised onto the stage by lift devices.

'Definitely! I'll definitely record it!'

Park Moondae's homma grabbed the camera and swallowed her saliva. And then she deduced in an instant.

‘Is it a concept where they lean against the booth and sing?’

It was an emotional song from the 80s, so she thought they might make a slow arrangement with it.

‘I hope Moondae has lots and lots of parts!’

At that moment, the prelude came out.

The refreshing sound of the xylophone and the lively sound of synthbras cheerfully disturbed the beat.

To that exciting beat, the doors of the booths opened one after another.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

All kinds of gaudy decorations, flower petals, and balloons popped up onto the stage from each booth.

“…?!”

And through the glitter, she could see a figure leaning against the booth.

‘Blonde!’

Park Moondae was in the middle booth.

…With fit jeans, a white T-shirt, and a loose jean jacket under his shoulders!

‘Your outfit!’

The moment the homma wa going to pick up her camera, Park Moondae began to walk out of the booth.

Immediately after the choreography, the first verse began.

– Woo! I can hear the heart!

The trembling of the shy heart

In case you can hear it

My lips close tightly

As soon as Park Moondae started singing with a smile on his eyes, he took out what he was hiding behind his back and put it on top of his blonde hair.

It was a shiny… huge ribbon.

“Gasp!”

A choreography with cute gestures that seemed impossible to try without having the talent was unfolding with a refreshing feeling while they used their bodies flexibly.

Meanwhile, a pale face was caught on the huge screen. Under Park Moondae’s eyes, there was even a sparkling glitter sticker.

‘Crazy! Park Moondae is crazy!’

The 80’s female solo song was interpreted in a fully classic idol style!

– I can’t sleep because my heart is tickling

Should I approach first?

How are you today?

What are you thinking about?

Bae Sejin sang the next part. A sky-blue ribbon was also placed on top of his head.

Because the choreography was flexible and focused on pretty lines, Bae Sejin, who was slightly lacking in strength, was able to perform well.

In addition, his expression was so good that her eyes were drawn to his face.

– *That's when you appeared.*

I can't say anything.

Your embracing arms

It's so hot my heart beats

Then Seon Ahyeon came out and sang the pre-chorus with a soft voice. A purple ribbon fluttered on his head.

'Crazy face… '

The blue jacket and the white T-shirt were born for Seon Ahyeon.

And the chorus came in all together.

Following the choreography, the blue jacket was hung over the shoulder and then went down again under the elbow.

The white t-shirt was short-sleeved.

– *Wow, that's amazing!*

Everything about you

My heart beats every day!

I can't fall asleep today

Outfit, hair, direction, choreography, and arrangement.

She could feel their determination to show the idol's amazing talent.

And that determination worked pretty well.

It was thanks to their faces and talents that they could perform excessive elements without being too much, even if it was just a little bit off.

Thanks to that, the audience watching the stage was feeling very satisfied and over-immersed.

'Ah… '

The homma, who was watching the stage by only fixing the angle without checking the fancam, suddenly realized that the surroundings were full of tremendous screams and groan.

She didn't even realize it had been so noisy while watching Park Moondae, who was 200% cute.

'…I must have screamed too, right?'

Perhaps her vivid scream was also recorded in the fancam.

'But if there's a fan who watched that and held back their scream! That! Isn't that person strange?'

She held back her scream and didn't take her eyes off the stage even in the second verse.

The three idols, who even ripped balloons from the phone booth, finished the stage splendidly by showing some good choreography with

balloon strings.

“Aahh…”

The homma staggered and leaned against the backrest, and only then did she realize that the unit also did a superb job of singing live with a female vocalist’s one key.

It was a side effect of the talent show.

* * *

“T-The fans loved it!”

As soon as he came down from the stage, Seon Ahyeon shouted with an excited face. He sounded fully convinced, which was rare.

‘Well, it’s hard not to be sure about it after listening to that.’

The cheers coming through the in-ear were incredible. It was so loud that I was almost half a beat late when we entered the chorus of the second verse.

Bae Sejin, who was suffering from a sense of shame at the beginning of the practice, also calmly admitted while tearing off his headband.

“The concept… was a good idea, indeed.”

“Y-Yes…!”

Seon Ahyeon strongly agreed. Anyone who saw it would think it was his idea.

‘Well, it’s those two who selected the song… To some extent, it’s true that it was Seon Ahyeon’s idea.’

I suggested this concept only after they selected the song.

'I thought this would suit the concert the best.'

And this choice… was also a matter of the concert's overall composition.

'We didn't have any song to relax the mood.'

Hi-five was an exciting song, and the rest of the lineup was a little too overwhelming.

That meant that it was necessary to add a song in the middle that could be laughed at.

I thought the reaction would be good because it would freshen up the atmosphere, but… Well, I was a little surprised because the reaction was better than I thought.

'…And it was fun.'

But I didn't have time to get lost in my thoughts. I needed to change my clothes and get my makeup done before the VCR ended.

In fact, I was already moving now while talking.

"Hey~ The ribbon was so cool!"

"It was exciting!"

When we ran and matched the next line, the rest of the members who were already waiting threw a word one by one.

I took my spot and accepted their words in moderation. The members laughed as they checked each other's outfits.

"I'm looking forward to this song."

“Me too.”

Everyone knew there was no time, so the conversation was cut off.

Whoo-

The stage setting in front of me opened, and the audience seats unfolded.

Glittering lights were swaying throughout the vast space. My adrenaline shot up at the sight that seemed to belong to some kind of sci-fi movie.

In the midst of renewed cheers, I started the first verse.

– *The waiting is long*

I always enjoy

<Idol Inc.>’s third team match.

The Moon Rabbit team’s ‘I like waiting’ resonated at the gymnastics stadium.

CHAPTER 131

‘I Like Waiting’, performed by the participants of <Idol Inc.>, was a stage that had been steadily gaining views to this day with its unique oriental and sentimental atmosphere.

Of course, besides this song, Testar had quite a few successful team-match stages.

Naturally, throughout the preparation of the concert, opinions on the stage they wanted to try again kept coming out.

– I think the hero concept is the most suitable for raising the scale of the concert!

– I-Into the new world. I-If we do it again, I think I can do it better…!

– Vampire! I want to do it!

– Guys, do you want to try V-tic sunbae-nim’s song? I think we can do it now…

–… Calm down, hyung.

However, most of them were eliminated at the discussion stage. Because the number of people had changed too much.

If we made a mistake, we could get criticized for ‘stealing away the dropouts’ song’.

However, this song, which was actively pushed by Keun Sejin, didn’t have a such concerning factor.

– Haha, the members are here, so well~

Except for Gold 1, all team members of Moon Rabbit successfully debuted as Testar.

In addition, Gold 1, who would debut soon, willingly left permission via text message on the condition that it would be used in his own concert as well.

So Testar was able to prepare the stage with excitement.

And now.

Seven figures wearing durumagis appeared at the front of the stage.

The sound of daegeum rang out.

Whoo-hoo Whoo-hoo-hoo Woo-woo woo-woo

An elegant and melancholy sound.

It was a sound that all the audience here had heard once.

At that moment, a figure gracefully turned back. Then, with the fluttering hem of the durumagi, he spurred upside down into the air.

The stretched, eerie wire leaped higher than before and then fell forward.

A splendid golden gongryongpo[1]Gongryongpo = the clothes worn by the Kings in Dynasty Joseon that have a dragon as their main decoration. pattern shone on the fluttering navy blue durumagi.

"…!"

The audience didn't understand the situation for a while but they soon started screaming when the detail of the rabbit mask was caught on the screen.

"Argh!"

"Crazy!"

Following the fun party, the nostalgic rabbit appeared.

And with luxurious decorations too.

– Every street corner waiting for you

I am always excited

Under the rabbit masks that the members flipped over, fancy jade norigaes[2]Norigae is a typical, traditional Korean accessory used in Hanbok. swayed.

The details of the costume, which were more dazzling than in Idol Inc, made beautiful circles and glittered whenever the tall figures moved.

And Testar kept the strange atmosphere and the slightly inhumane group dance from that time intact.

No, rather, it became more intense.

– I like waiting

My wait is long

It's always fun

Thanks to the increase in the number of people, the choreography of the chorus became even more grandiose both in formation and overall movement.

– *When this wait is over*

I know you'll run into me

My heart is already bright

Park Moondae played the high notes in the chorus with a clear voice/ On that face which was captured on the screen, the glitter from the unit stage was still slightly visible.

And the second verse, which was cut in Idol Inc due to the performance time issue, continued without being cut this time around.

The new members of Moon Rabbit sang the new verses.

– *Every moment that goes by again*

My focus is on you

Cha Eugene smiled and made a grandiose movement with light foot movements. He received the choreography all the way to his durumagi.

– *It doesn't matter if you pass by*

Because I already know

The moon rabbits expressed the stage as if they were overwhelmed and didn't know what to do, and the audience was similarly infected and enjoyed the stage with groans.

The concert hall was heated with joy.

And in the bridge part.

– *You've been waiting for me too*

Talking, vivid sense of déjà vu

The moon rabbits ran to the extended stage and performed the verse, which had a sweet sensuality.

With a fan pulled out from the inside of the robe

"Aaaah!"

"Ugh!"

The screams heard from the surrounding stands were terrifying.

After the choreography of sweeping the floor with their whole bodies and lowering the durumagis, they were now wearing shirts.

Glittering string ornaments hung over the white shirt and were tied with a sash.

And finally at the end of the last chorus.

As if waiting with excitement again for someone, the choreography with the sound of humming and the moving feet continued happily.

– *Hum hu hu hum- huhu*

DDu-ru Du-ru Du Du

The audience responded excitedly by singing along to the humming.

Ddu-du-ru-du-du-du-du-du~

It was a chorus of honest pronunciation without a single mistake.

In the unexpected cute situation, the moon rabbits ended the stage with bigger smiles than they had planned.

– *Wait for me*

Even Keun Sejin's last verse was sung in unison.

Keun Sejin smiled, crossed his arms, and leaned his head on the trunk of a huge tree that stick out on the extended stage.

Even after the stage went dark, the cheers continued.

Waaah!!

This development was followed the VCR, and it was time to announce a new stage. People were excited by the afterglow of the previous stage and looked forward to the next stage.

However, even after a few seconds, the stage was still dark.

Some of the cheering spectators soon began to voice their doubts.

"Hmm?"

"Huh??"

"What?"

Right before people started making a fuss, wondering if it was a stage accident.

Suddenly the stage was lit up.

Thud.

There was only one huge spotlight.

The spotlight was on the extended stage… It was illuminating a giant stump!

"…!!"

It was the spot where the tree used to be. But as if the body had been torn off, the whole thing disappeared and only the stump remained.

And on top of that stump… Two dark-haired people were sitting with their heads lowered down.

"…?!"

A slow solo string instrument played out. The two slowly raised their heads.

Their faces were completely covered with rabbit masks.

However, the head part of the mask was partially damaged, and paint trickled down from that part.

"…"

In such an unusual atmosphere, the song began in front of a large audience who became quiet.

-Je te donne des fleurs que…

With the accompaniment of the chanson that had became somewhat bizarre due to the extreme adjustment of pitch.

The third unit stage started without notice.

* * *

“Hey, Chungwoo hyung and Raebin are really amazing, aren’t they?”

Coming back down under the stage.

With people’s help, Keun Sejin talked to me while changing his clothes in a hurry.

“Why all of a sudden?”

“What do you mean why, right now, without any choreography, they’re just playing the song with their own arrangement and voice. Look at their guts. So cool~”

It was a compliment to those who were suddenly absent while he was just busy breathing.

‘What are you thinking?’

But when I turned my head, I saw a camera for the behind-the-scenes of the concert.

‘As expected.’

I see. What a consistent fellow. I replied with admiration.

“Well, yes.”

Perhaps Ryu Chungwoo even thought of the risk of the characteristic of ‘Idol Concert’ like he said.

However, Kim Raebin probably didn’t need to have the guts.

‘The arrangement comes out well and the live performance is good, so he must have thought it isn’t a problem.’’

And the arrangement really did come out well.

The classic chanson that came out a few decades ago was broken and recombined, and turned into an indie style that had been popular on the recent music charts.

If the concert album came out, it would probably be the best song.

Keun Sejin grinned at my agreement.

“Right? Ah, of course, Moondae’s guts were amazing too. The ribbon headband was amazing~”

“…Uh, yes.”

There was a camera next to us. Let’s not forget.

“Moondaemoondae, don’t you have anything to say to me? Did you see the cowboy?”

“Yeah, that was cool.”

“Please say it again more sincerely~”

I ignored the nonsense and listened to the sounds coming from the stage.

…A bright riff melody that was pleasant to the ears was placed on top of a gloomy beat.

-… Wounds that do not heal

Tears harden like scabs

Leaving traces down there…

Then I heard a rap.

This was because the rap was entrusted with the development of the song, excluding the iconic intro and chorus.

It was a composition that people were familiar with to make it sound more catchy.

However, I wondered if the magic of the song, which only pushed ahead with rap, vocals, and atmosphere, could work at the concert.

'Though I think the atmosphere also plays a part.'

They decided to give it a strong narrative by using the set and lighting on the stage like a play.

And on the screen, the meaning of the lyrics of the chanson would have appeared black like splashing ink.

– To you dear

I'm giving you flowers

Today is a special day

The streets are full of laughter

– The trivial moments

Piled up like dust.

Shining like a jewel

I still feel your breath

The lyrics would have been fresh in the original song, but it met the gloomy beat and rap and came out with a different feeling.

‘It will leave a strong impression.’

And in fact, thanks to those lyrics, in the first draft of the setlist we made, the next song was decided unanimously.

It was decided to take over the title track of the new album.

‘The lyrics are similar.’

It was a good composition for the build-up.

However, the company rejected it. It was a matter of stamina and time.

– Isn’t Raebin-ssi and Chungwoo-ssi going to collapse at this rate?

– If we do this in a row, I think a mistake will happen while changing the outfit. It could be fatal for the performance of the new song, so shouldn’t we avoid it?

Each one of them was true, so I kept my mouth shut and agreed.

So a short talk and communication with the audience were added, but even if we talked, could we liven up the atmosphere after that song…? I didn’t know.

‘I think it would be appropriate to have a talk after an exciting or lyrical song.’

It couldn’t be helped because we only had a small number of songs to choose from, but it was a bit disappointing.

I clicked my tongue and finished my costume and hair maintenance, and then moved down the hallway. And soon after, those who finished their third unit stage joined.

“Whoo…”

“How was it?”

“Yes, it was even better than I thought.”

“I think I have properly expressed everything l wanted to show them!”

The faces that answered were bright. It seemed the responses were good.

‘The cheers were long.’

Without much worry, the concert was going smoothly.

“Go up! Be careful where you sit!”

“Yes!”

We were seated in seven chairs side by side and raised to the center stage via a lift.

In front of my eyes, countless lights that filled the huge space were shimmering and making waves.

Aaah!

The cheers were like the sound of light.

‘…This is no joke.’

I did a little less compared to when I had to perform, but I felt dizzy sitting here with my mind sober.

If I think that over 10,000 people are sitting here, at each light… No, let’s stop.

‘It is difficult to even proceed with the script.’

I confirmed that Ryu Chungwoo, who would start the first talk, lifted the microphone.

[Nice to see you again, everyone! Are you enjoying the concert? Did you like our unit performances?]

[Ooh~ hyung, can you hear that? Everyone is enjoying it, they said it was so good!]

[So good!]

I put my mouth on the microphone, too.

[Which performance did you like the most?]

All kinds of words rushed in here and there like a tide.

.

All of them!

I like them all!

Rabbit!

Wire!

Moondae's performance!

Those expressions without any sharp words rang in my ears.

"…"

For a moment, I unintentionally shut up… My prepared answer came a beat late.

[…I like everything, too.]

[Ah, Moondae is completely touched~]

[I'm touched, too!]

[This is rarer than you think, everyone.]

After a brief moment of light teasing, the proceeding continued.

[Then… Let's begin the <What I Want to Say to Testar> segment!]

And when I was about to enter the full-fledged content with the questions I had prepared.

Suddenly the lights around the stage went dark.

"…?"

This wasn't planned.

I made eye contact with the slightly surprised members.

'What is this?'

'Is it an accident?'

At that moment, the light suddenly poured from behind.

It was light coming from the screen.

As I reflexively turned my head, an unexpected video was playing on the screen.

…It was Testar's debut showcase.

[My artists came like magic]

[Thank you! I love you!]

With subtitles, the video continued to play out.

Activities from over the past nine months appeared on the screen. From the first public TV stage to the year-end stage, cuts of Testar in all kinds of costumes passed by.

Then the screen went back to the audience.

Suddenly, people were holding a light purple cloth in their hands.

That… It was a slogan.

On a huge screen, the phrase was clearly displayed.

[Sending it to Testar]

[Loviewer's paper plane]

And the accompaniment of a song I already knew suddenly started to play out.

…<The Magic Is You>.

It was Testar's first fan song.

I feel good today

I think something good is going to happen

In the blink of an eye, the concert hall was filled with numerous voices.

If it's you, everything's going to be fine.

It's unfamiliar, but somehow it's going to be great.

They were the voices of 10,000 people singing.

Numerous voices united, raining down from all directions along with the lights like shooting stars.

I was choked, out of breath.

- 1. Gongryongpo = the clothes worn by the Kings in Dynasty Joseon that have a dragon as their main decoration.

- 2. Norigae is a typical, traditional Korean accessory used in Hanbok.

CHAPTER 132

It wasn't the first time I ever saw this kind of sight.

It was not unusual for fans to give an event to a singer at a concert.

I had seen it three or four times when I was asked to do data.

I'd never felt particularly excited watching it.

I just thought that it was amazing how they could do it at the right timing without getting paid.

But this… Being the subject myself, it was a completely different experience.

Is it possible to feel that each and every one of those countless twinkling lights is a person's heart?

This overwhelming sense of sharing a collective experience at the center, not as an outsider.

I didn't know, I didn't know what to say.

"…"

Meanwhile, the singing continued.

It was my part.

Even if there's nothing that doesn't change

The magic of this moment

Maybe it's YOU

An unimaginable shudder ran all the way to my toes, as if hot water had been poured over the top of my head.

"…Huft."

I hurriedly lowered my head. I felt better once it disappeared from my sight.

But at the same time, I wanted to look up and see more.

'…What a mess.'

It was ridiculous.

In my ears, I could still hear the constant singing voices.

I feel good today

I think something good is going to happen

In addition, now the other guys were joining in and singing.

The first was Keun Sejin.

"…If it's you, everything will be fine~"

They must be very touched, I could hear their trembling voices as each of them sang their parts.

"L-LIFE is strange, lightly…"

Sniffling, Kim Raebin continued the rap part.

And soon my part came.

'…I'm going crazy.'

I picked up the microphone for now.

"…When you see me."

The single verse was scattered. The words that came in late didn't continue properly.

'Damn it.'

I gritted my teeth.

Perhaps they thought it was strange that the silence lengthened, and at last, their gazes finally poured out.

"…Moondae?"

"M-Moondae?"

"Are you crying?"

Suddenly, several hands shook my shoulders and tapped my back and the back of my neck. Flustered exclamations mixed in between the voices of the fans who were singing.

'…Oh, my gosh.'

I pressed the area around my eyes with one hand.

Then I raised my head and looked around as calmly as I could.

Most of the members had tears in their eyes.

But even if their eyes were glassy and tearful, the ones who shed tears… none of them did.

Even Bae Sejin didn't cry like this.

*'F*ck.'*

Right now it was just me… Am I the only one who became a weirdo?

"Oh my gosh."

"Moondae is being like this."

These guys laughed a few times, and fortunately, they began to cry in earnest. It was clear that they were holding back.

"…Let's do our best."

Drunk with the atmosphere, they mercilessly hugged me on the top of my head and on my shoulders. It was hot.

I didn't know if the hugging was suffocating, or if this situation itself was suffocating.

What should I do?

Don't cry.

It's okay.

While the bridge was playing, all kinds of shouts came to my ears instead of the sound of singing.

"Phew."

The hug was released, and Keun Sejin, who ran to somewhere and came back, held a cloth in front of my face.

Without thinking, I grabbed it and pressed it to my face.

I could see indigo letters on a light purple background.

…It was a slogan.

Someone had thrown it onto the stage.

‘It’s driving me crazy.’

I just buried my face. I would have looked very, very funny.

Someone patted me roughly on the head.

“Good job.”

Before the bridge was over, I was led by the members and walked out to the front of the stage. And holding hands side by side, I bowed my head and saluted.

Instead of the sound of singing, shouts rang in my head.

I staggered and picked up the microphone.

“…Yes, the magic is you.”

Fortunately, I managed to sing the last verse.

After the fan event disguised as a talk was over, I barely managed to say a few words of my feelings before coming down the stage.

It was only then that I stopped crying.

'…I should have stopped crying five minutes ago.'

It was ridiculous.

I never thought that the situation where I cried for the first time in nearly 7 years would be live in front of a camera with 13,000 people.

'…I shouldn't have avoided SNS monitoring.'

It would have been better if I had known in advance, but since the concert was right around the corner, we all had agreed to not look at the Internet for about a week so that we didn't get influenced.

It wasn't an activity that required special monitoring, so I thought it would be okay.

'Meanwhile, this… I didn't expect that things were secretly coming and going behind the scenes.'

There would never be such useless Internet detoxification again in my life.

I almost crumpled the slogan in my hand, but I managed to hold it in and folded it up and put it on a nearby chair.

"Hey, you really didn't expect this. You didn't cry even when winning first place."

"…"

"As expected, you're a man born to be an idol. Crying only in front of the fans' love… Kyaa."

"Stop it."

When it came down to the topic of his sobbing, he only kept his mouth shut. Keun Sejin changed his clothes with a chuckle.

“A-Are you okay?”

“…I am fine.”

They were really worried so I couldn’t even get angry.

Seon Ahyeon seemed very touched, but he didn’t cry that much, so his face was fine, saving the staff the trouble.

On the other hand, Bae Sejin came down and burst into tears, making the staff flustered.

“…How are you feeling, hyung?”

“I-I’m fine.”

Bae Sejin barely stopped sniffing and finished his make-up.

“We don’t have much time left. We have to move.”

Ryu Chungwoo, who cried quickly and came to his senses quickly, swiftly took control of the situation. Next to him, Cha Eugene, who didn’t cry and was just excited, had already changed his clothes.

“Go, go!”

…Right, it was time to go.

The long-awaited title stage was waiting.

“VCR has 50 seconds left!”

We ran and moved to the standby location.

Perhaps the set was already up on the center stage with the lights off.

I remembered a scene from a movie.

An antique mansion. Dusty chandeliers, butterfly specimens, and rusty cages.

And a clockwork on the back.

“Going up!”

The stage setting began to move.

As soon as the floor opened and our heads were exposed on the stage, lights and cheers began to roar.

Whaaaaaaa-

But now was not the time to be overwhelmed. It was time to put all the sentiments aside and focus again.

Blue lights were put on the stage.

Testar took formation.

* * *

“Phew…”

On the weekend night of the 31st, after two days of Testar’s concert.

Park Moondae’s homma staggered forward, clutching her bag.

The bag contained a commendable camera that had completed its filming mission in the standing area.

She attended the concerts for two days, cried for two days, took pictures, and even watched the stage while standing today, so her stamina had run out.

But she had no regret. Not even a speck of it!

'It was so good… '

From start to finish, she couldn't wish for more.

Not only it was good because they did their best, but the stage itself was great and so much fun.

She felt like she was in another world for a while.

'It's too bad that it was over within two days…!'

She wished she could have two more days.

And even though she was just on her way out, she already missed live Testar so much.

Unable to control her boiling heart, she opened her phone and logged on to SNS.

And she took the pictures from the camera with her smartphone again, and uploaded them quickly, albeit with poor quality.

==========

[2X0331 Last Day Concert Park Moondae Preview]

(Photo of Park Moondae's emotional tears) (Photo of Park Moondae pointing his finger to his cheek on the unit stage) (Photo of Park Moondae looking back on the wire)

I love you, Moondae

#Testar #TeSTAR #ParkMoondae #MoonPuppy

==========

The homma's heart especially ached whenever she saw the first attached photo.

It was the photo of Park Moondae holding back tears while holding a paper with both hands and slightly lowering his head.

The homma banged her chest inwardly.

'My kid is truly a puppy angel… '

Park Moondae also cried on the second day of the concert.

Fans prepared an event different from the first day, namely, blowing a paper airplane toward Testar while singing a fan song during the encore.

Naturally, Testar was overwhelmed again by the enormous sight of 10,000 colorful paper planes floating together in the concert hall.

And Testar, who grabbed some of the planes that luckily landed on stage, was able to check the content inside themselves.

– T-This…

– Wait a minute, ah…

-…

Fans had written down what they wanted to say inside each piece of paper folded into the plane.

It was a brutally touching event.

In the process, some members were brought to tears, and among them, Park Moondae's appearance was taken as the homma's first preview photo.

And Park Moondae… Having an image as someone who seemed the least likely to cry, he was also the member who cried the most at the concert.

Even when winning first place in Idol Inc, winning first place in the music show after debut, or at any award ceremonies, the waterfalls of tears from the person who laughed instead of shedding a single tear in those events were tremendously destructive.

On the first day, not only fans but also various communities were turned upside down.

– Crazy, Gommeo cried?

└He didn't cry, he was just sobbing (photo)

└Heol

└He was steaming and full of tears

-ㅋㅋㅋ I thought he wouldn't cry even if he won the Grand Prize, but he crumbled immediately just after one concert's sing-along. How thrilling

└Hey pervert! (cover your mouth)

└If you put away this bastard's hand, he would be smiling

└How did you know

– I buy the VOD if I cry at the concert. I bought this one. I want to see it in high definition soon.

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㄹㅇ

– All of them cry a lot. I also would have cried if the first concert was gymnastics.

└Your aggro is f*cking twisted. I think it's because they grew up while enjoying the taste society's chicken fire even before their debut so they know how precious it is

└Yes, even if they don't know, they're the ones who will pretend to know, so it tastes sucksㅋ If they couldn't do this, they would have already been beaten and eliminated in Idol Inc.

– Yes, wearing a pink ribbon and fooling around, my once-in-a-millennium Gommeo♡ Shamstar, be nice to Gommeo, he's reviving the bad selections♡♡ Gommeo, cry a lot and keep feeling indebted to your fans♡♡

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋSolo stans coming in

For your information, Shamstar was an anti-search name for Testar that had been modified to the limit.

(TL notes: It's originally shambyeol and byeol = star.)

In any case, Testar's concert progress was quickly shared in various places, from communities where people were gossiping without a filter to fan accounts with courtesy and common sense.

There were all kinds of topics to talk about, including the new unit stage, the unconventional new song stage, and the crying, so it was probably only natural.

As a proof, the homma's Park Moondae preview share easily broke the thousandth mark in less than 5 minutes after it was posted.

The responses of acquaintances and followers were also excellent.

– Moondae's blonde hair is precious. I'll definitely protect it.

– SO CUTE♡

– Aigoo, our Moon Puppy cried again ㅠㅠ Thank you as always, Full Moonbe-nim!

– His real skin color is beautiful, too. STOP whitewashing (crying emoticon)

└It's an unedited preview. Get the hell out of here, there's no whitewashing anywhere;

Maybe because there were a lot of overseas fans, foreign language aggro was also starting to appear.

'They're picking a fight with every hommas.'

The homma easily ignored it because it was something she had seen before. And she quickly got on the subway that just arrived.

'Ugh, there are so many people… '

On the first day, she could go home comfortably because she got a friend's car from another place, but such a fluke was impossible today.

'I should have taken a taxi or a hotel!'

When she was about to regret it, fortunately, she found a seat right in front of her and she was able to sit down.

‘Thank goodness.’

The homma took out her camera as soon as she sat down and began to flip through the footage.

Because the new song stage hadn’t left the corner of her mind.

‘It was really crazy.’

She didn’t expect them to bring something like that.

But she was so thankful that they did!

Since the first impact was important, it was implicit that she shouldn’t upload photos or fancams of the new song stage until midnight, but to be honest, she really wanted to brag.

‘Let’s just replay it.’

When the homma was about to check the fancam she had filmed today, a vibration suddenly rang from her knee.

It was her smartphone.

And in the notification box… There was unexpected news.

[Inviting Loviewers to Testar’s concert after party! (clapping emoticon)]

It was a W live notification!

CHAPTER 133

‘Huh.’

Park Moondae’s homma immediately clicked the W live notification without even having the chance to catch her breath.

‘Real-time video communication at this timing?!’

Although Testar usually didn’t forget to take care of SNS activities even when they weren’t on an activity period, she didn’t know they would do this right after the concert.

And within an hour of the concert, too!

‘They must be tired.’

When she thought of the set list where they poured all their stamina into, she was worried, but she couldn’t help but raise the corners of her mouth.

‘I’ll see you again soon, Testar!’

It felt like the depressing feeling of emptiness that could come rushing in after the concert was blocked in advance.

The video started appearing after a longer loading than usual, perhaps because there was a huge crowd of people.

It showed the picture of Testar sitting around a table full of delivery food.

[Oh, they're coming in!]

[Can you see us?]

In addition, Testar was waving their hands and wearing party cone hats on their heads!

'So cute!'

It was definitely an after-concert party. Homma quickly checked Park Moondae's face with a warm expression.

"…?"

Somehow… The Tibetan fox was showing up?

For some reason, he had a forlorn face as if he had gotten hit by reality.

'Our professional idol Moondae barely wears the cone hat…?'

The homma, who was puzzled, immediately realized the reason.

Looking closely, the members probably decorated the cone hats themselves, they wrote down a phrase with crayons for each cone hat.

And Park Moondae's phrase was this.

-(Cong) Crybaby king for two days in a row (rats)

"Gasp…"

It was insanely cute!

Although other members also had playful phrases like 'Preparing for abs' on their heads, Park Moondae's sullenness was deadly cute…

She kept her mouth shut on the subway to avoid looking like a lunatic, not realizing that she didn't have to.

Because half of the space there was filled with people who were on their way home from the concert anyway…

With their seats crossing one another, passengers were either groaning or unable to hold back laughter.

And the comments on app W were quickly filled with people asking about the phrases on the cone hats or requesting to be doted on.

Waving their hands a few times to check the comments and the number of viewers, Testar replied cheerfully, albeit slightly embarrassed.

[Oh, the phrase? Haha… You noticed right away.]

[That's right. We wrote it for each other~]

[I like my phrase! Moondae hyung wrote it!]

On the cone hat that Cha Eugene lifted with his hands, 'Kneel down to get on the wire one more time' was written.

It was a cute phrase, but Cha Eugene seemed to think that the phrase was cool because it showed his passion.

'Cha Eugene is cute, too.'

The homma generously acknowledged the situation.

It meant she had accepted the position of the maknae who played well with her kid.

Park Moondae also smiled.

[I’m glad you like it.]

[Hehe.]

[By the way, I’m really curious who wrote the phrase for my hat…]

[Hahaha! We all wrote it together. Together!]

[Ah! Lee Sejin hyung wrote it!]

[No, Eugene!]

It was a cute atmosphere. She concentrated on the screen, holding her breath.

Ryu Chungwoo opened his mouth with a smile.

[So, how was today’s concert?…]

Pop.

Suddenly the video went off.

[W live has ended]

“…?”

All of a sudden?

The members didn’t even touch the phone.

‘What’s with this? Is it an error?’

Perhaps Testar was also bewildered, the live notification popped up again a little after a while.

[To Testar’s concert after-party again, Loviewer! We invite you♡> _ <]

Having taken off their cone hats as if embarrassed, the members sighed in relief at the W live that was turned on again.

[Phew! There must have been a problem!]

[Hello again, Loviewer!]

[I-It will be okay now, right?]

[Ei~ Of course! Now, shall we continue? Raebin-ssi!]

[Yes, for this W Live, we thought what if we could give Loviewers a different kind of fun on their way home…]

Pop. It was disconnected again.

This time, they couldn’t even stream for one minute.

“…”

Homma was struck by an ominous feeling.

They started the next W live immediately.

[Why is it like this?!]

However, the quality of the video was crap.

Looking like a dot image, Testa murmured while looking at the screen.

[I don’t think we touched it wrong?]

[H-How about changing the phone…?]

[…For now, I think it would be better to broadcast a stable voice. I think the app itself is a little unstable right now…]

Before Park Moondae was done talking, the video ended.

*'F*ck!!'*

Since the app was updated some time ago, an error had been occurring to idols one after another, and it was Testar's turn this time.

The homma immediately checked the announcements on the W app, but there was no notice of errors or server instability no matter how hard she looked.

'…That's right. They don't do that.'

She was speechless at their never-changing treatment of the gullible people.

"…"

Testa took five minutes to try the next attempt. It seemed they were changing the phone following Seon Ahyeon's opinion.

Now, they started to add a crying emoticon on the title of the W live.

[Testar's concert after party… Please let this workㅠ (Crying emoticon)]

A neat video screen greeted Testar and the viewers.

'Ha, this time…!'

The homma was relieved for a moment because Testar's strategy to change the phone seemed to haave worked.

But this time there was no sound.

[(Excited Cha Eugene)]

[(Kim Raebin asking a question)]

[(Bae Sejin reading the comments)]

[(Flustered Ryu Chungwoo)]

And Park Moondae, who had gone out of the screen, appeared with a piece of paper written with crayons.

– You can't hear me?

There was a flood of comments saying yes.

With an expression that was neither smiling nor crying, Keun Sejin wrote something on the paper with crayons.

– ㅠㅠ

And they tried again.

Testar was slowly getting worn out.

[Again… Glad to see you, everyone.]

[Hahaha…]

[I guess you can hear me this time.]

However, it seemed it didn't get cut off this time!

[Oh, I think it's a little more stable now!]

[Hmm, there seems to be a bit of an error on the screen we're seeing…]

[If we restart it, it might get cut off again, so let's just keep going.]

[Agreed!]

Most of Testar nodded at Ryu Chungwoo's cautious words.

Because they really didn't have a solution if they turned it on again and still get cut off again.

[Now, shall we talk about the most impressive moment of our concert?]

[Me! I'll go first!]

[Okay, let's start with Eugene!]

Only then did Testar get excited and begin a full-fledged concert review.

[It's fun to use the rope!]

[Oh my, so that's why Eugene kept saying it was fun when practicing the rope~?]

[I won't eat it!]

”[Idiot,[1]"]In the actual Korean words, Keun Sejin used the word meant for eating. But well, in this context, his word meant something else. Not gonna lie, I got very confused when translating this part until Kim Raebin corrected him.

[No, the idiot one is Kim Raebin.]

[…!! No, I am not an idiot! My IQ is recorded in the official test…!]

But they didn't know.

That almost all viewers, except for a few of them, were thrown off the stream.

The error was not the decreased number of comments, but the number of viewers that remained the same.

The majority of Loviewers that couldn't enter the live were crying like crazy at the endless loading or error screens that didn't work.

And Park Moondae's homma also belonged to the majority.

[A temporary error has occurred]

"…"

Among the very few who had succeeded in staying, there were some haters who giggled and relayed the situation on SNS as if they were making a joke.

– Wow, Shamstar is tearing off the chicken! I should leave a comment saying that they've lost their minds tonightㅠ

– During the concert rehearsal, Euggene and Raebinj checked how many people were outside. Didn't all of them were ranked as young handsome kids when they're actually old?

The aggros, which would normally have been buried, were receiving attention, and the number of shares and re-tweets was increasing.

"…Sigh."

The homma felt deeply upset for the first time in a long time since the Rookie Award controversy.

Because there were a lot of people like that, of course, W app's SNS account was hit by a huge bomb.

– Do something about Testar's W app

– Give me back their anniversary ㅠㅠ

– I wonder if it is possible to replace the app management. Since the update, there are cases of errors for each idol.

– There's always error error error every time but how come there's never a f*cking apology?

– WHY (angry emoticon)

However, W app didn't even say a single word.

'…I expected it, but… '

These guys made no apology even after making five errors on V-tic members' personal W-live not too long ago.

Unless the function was paralyzed, such as blocked comments, etc, they just badly treated it as an error.

Perhaps in Testar's case, expressing their intention would be more awkward.

'Like this, Moondae's live… I can't watch it.'

Park Moondae's homma clicked on Testar's real-time W live thumbnail and kept coming in and out just in case, but nothing happened.

And by the time she got home, Testar's W-live was completely over.

"…"

The replay would come tomorrow at the earliest, or a week later at the latest.

‘If the error is really serious, I won’t even be able to see the replay… No! That can’t be true!’

It was better not to think of any more ominous foreboding.

“Phew…”

Homma entered the house with a long sigh.

‘I washed up and came out… I need to organize the data.’

She came back from the concert in a good mood, so she didn’t have to be upset about this.

‘Right, it was so good.’

When she remembered the two-day concert, she immediately felt better again.

And when she picked up the phone again, news had arrived.

“…?!”

Testar’s SNS notification.

From Park Moondae, at that!

==========

Hello, Loviewer

This is Moondae (dog emoticon)

This is today’s W live fancam.

I wanted to meet a lot of Loviewers, but it’s too bad. I’ll be back soon.

(clumsy drawing of a fox)

(Video)

==========

The attached video… It was the recorded version of the W live that they just did!

Right. When the members changed the phone and tried to stream again, Park Moondae put his phone next to it just in case.

With the video recording turned on.

And as soon as the W live was over, he figured out the situation and uploaded it immediately.

It was filmed with a completely different phone, so it didn't violate the app's contract regulations.

'…Oh, my gosh.'

The homma slammed her head into the bed.

Park Moondae was such a brilliant and great idol that she became at a loss for words.

And when she finally looked at Park Moondae's SNS post again, something she hadn't paid attention to earlier caught her eye.

Crookedly drawn with crayons… It was a drawing of a fox.

'No, does this really make sense? Crazy!'

Considering Park Moondae's devastating drawing skills, it was clear that he had copied and practiced a lot before uploading it.

‘You even paid attention to the lack of Tibetan fox emoticon?!’

The homma cried, asking what kind of idol he was, and SNS was the same.

And the flow didn’t end with Park Moondae’s solo fans.

The members commented on Park Moondae’s post and started posting pictures of concert practice and the after-party preparations.

In addition, they also included a few pieces of information.

– Crazy, Bae-Ah-Moon unit stage’s royal ribbon headband was picked by Baese ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ Ahyeon said thank you for choosing a pretty one ㅋㅋㅋ So funny ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It’s Lee Sejin who picked I like waiting, as expected of my idol

– ㅠㅠㅠㅠ Thank you so much for the picture of Ryu Chungwoo wearing a white T-shirt and a gongryongpo. Really. I love you, Raebin

– No, they only posted pictures of other people ㅋㅋㅋ I understand, we can become multi-fans, guys

The disappointment of not being able to attend W Live together in Testar’s fandom disappeared.

* * *

“Hm, everyone likes it!”

“Phew.”

“I see.”

“I am glad!”

In response to Keun Sejin's confirmation, voices of relief came from here and there.

I held back my sigh.

'We got an error at that timing.'

It would be troublesome if the atmosphere turned bad on the day of the concert.

Everyone had to be excited and happy so that they would come to the next concert and listen to the album.

It was fortunate that it turned out fine in the end, but the fact that theW live didn't go as planned left a bad aftertaste.

'We even rented a place to do this.'

What a bummer. However, things didn't always go according to plan, so let's be satisfied with this.

"Then, shall we continue a little more comfortably?"

"Great~"

"Let's order chicken!"

Currently, having returned to the dorm, Testar had finally changed into comfortable clothes.

And now the second round was about to begin.

'You guys have good stamina.'

They were probably excited, and because they didn't have a schedule for tomorrow morning, it seemed they got carried away.

‘I will also play along in moderation and then leave.’

Even Bae Sejin was choosing food, this picture alone was strange to see.

Instead, I would get some business done while these guys were talking.

‘Status window.’

Thanks to the concert’s successful completion, I had a little something to settle.

- 1. ”]In the actual Korean words, Keun Sejin used the word meant for eating. But well, in this context, his word meant something else. Not gonna lie, I got very confused when translating this part until Kim Raebin corrected him.

CHAPTER 134

First of all, as soon as the concert on the first day ended, a pop-up that I had never seen before appeared.

[A successful performance!]

Impressed the overwhelming majority!

– Number of audiences: 13,120 (NEW!)

– Impressed rate: 96% (NEW!)

: Draw heroic characteristics ☜ Click!

And I had attained one achievement.

It was the ‘first performance’ achievement. Thanks to that, I leveled up for the first time in a while.

‘Is it about the performance, not the stage?’

It seemed one-time stages and solo concerts were counted as different fields.

‘It’s a profit.’

The status window was stagnant, but its operation was good because I could get more corners available like this.

In many ways, since I leveled up for the first time in a while and even got a characteristic draw, the concert was a good harvest.

'…It was fun, too.'

Well… It didn't seem to be the kind of fun that modern people usually experience, but that overwhelming sense was… certain.

It was a dizzying moment when I thought back on it now.

All those lights, voices, heat, and emotions…

"…"

I almost felt emotional for a moment, but then I also remembered what I had done.

'…I cried.'

…And I even remembered the phrase on the cone hat I had worn earlier.

'Damn it.'

Because the cone hat was self-made, there were no extras, and since I couldn't show a non-cooperative appearance on W live, I had no choice but to use it.

'I won't cry again.'

That f*cking crybaby king phrase would become the title of the bastard who wrote it next time.

"Moondae, do you want a beer?"

"Yes."

Just in time, I took a can of beer from Ryu Chungwoo and drank it. I drank it well.

“You all worked so hard!”

“Phew, it’s just the beginning of our activity, but it feels like it’s already over~”

“Strictly speaking, we haven’t started yet. Because our album release date is tomorrow.”

“…The music video hasn’t been released yet. It will come out in half an hour.”

“Hey, why don’t we watch it later before going to bed?”

“Great idea!”

Everyone was really excited.

I might have to record a video one more time later.

‘It’s our first reaction to the music video, so there’s no harm in filming it.’

Instead of an old low-end phone, I fiddled with a new, up-to-date smartphone covered in a yellow puppy case.

It was one of the gifts I received on my birthday.

It took some time to get used to because the operating system was different from the phones I used to have, but it was fun because it had various functions… I was grateful.

However, after receiving the latest smartphone gift about seven times, I started to break out in a cold sweat.

‘There were three of the same model.’

I purposefully made sure it got caught on camera and even made confirmation of it a few times, but the smartphone was not the end.

It seemed I had received almost all kinds of electronics and luxury goods as gifts so far.

'…It's too expensive.'

Calculating the amount to be paid back was almost disorienting.

I couldn't go on like this. I was busy anyway, so I didn't have time to use those stuff properly.

I couldn't even show the gifts I used, but continuing to receive them was only self-satisfaction.

'I am not even going to sell them.'

If I got caught selling them, a burning ceremony would be held on the Internet that day.

And even if it wouldn't happen… Those were gifts given to me to use, so I couldn't sell them.

'I should make an announcement telling them to stop.'

Even if I said I didn't want to take gifts, saying it alone would be like unnecessarily throwing prey to the aggro, so I would have to bring it up to these guys as soon as I got the settlement.

But I couldn't do it now.

Even if I brought it up, with the atmosphere of the drinking party, they would just shout 'Okay' in a fit of anger and regret it the next day.

"What do you think, you two 20-year-olds? Do you like beer?"

“It’s bitter.”

“It doesn’t have any sugar at all…”

“T-Then… How about this?”

Taste reviews run rampant with people recommending drinks to the kids who drank legally for the first time.

“I like this!”

“I-I am glad…! B-But, don’t drink too much… Uh.”

‘What a mess.’

I gave up on the idea of a reaction video. I would have to accumulate another three years of annual leave to make this public.

“Moondae, do you have any recommendations~?”

“Tell them to drink soda.”

“I don’t want to!”

Yeah well, then keep drinking and get wasted.

I opened a new can of beer and angrily brought up the characteristics draw.

‘If I pick a heroic characteristic, is it at least grade B?’

I hope something useful comes out. I thought it would be best if Bacchus came out again and got upgraded.

Now, the familiar slot machine popped up, and the slot with the golden slot intermittently mixed with the platinum slot began to spin.

[Mental Strength]

[Concentration]

[Fluffy Cutie]

[For further details (omitted)]

[I need to sympathize]

[Bacchus]

[…]

Characteristics that I felt like I had seen somewhere and phrases that I hoped wouldn't get caught flashed by, and then stopped.

It was a platinum-colored slot, which was rare.

"…!"

Papapapang!

Along with confetti, an A-class characteristic appeared.

[Characteristic: International student (A)]

– I understand what you said.

: Foreign language proficiency +200%

What is this?

Where did this random characteristic of job seekers come from?

'Increased foreign language proficiency?'

Why? Just let me speak one language. Creating something out of nothing seemed impossible even with the status window

'…I blew off an A-class.'

With a bitter smile, I tried to abandon my newly selected characteristic, but suddenly I came to my senses.

'Wait a minute.'

…Let's consider the cases so far.

Strong heart. As soon as it came out, I threw it away and controversy over the past broke out.

The faucet. As soon as it came out, I threw it away and ended up crying my heart out at the concert… F*ck.

No way, did it give the characteristic that I needed the most at that time?

The ominous premonition that I recalled last time was starting to look very convincing.

"…Huft.".

Calm down. First, let's guess.

Situations where foreign language proficiency was required.

'It's only for overseas trips.'

Unless we were kidnapped and sold to overseas' fishing boats, that was our most likely future as an idol.

'It's almost time to start a tour.'

Because we came from a Korean audition program, Testar's overseas fandom was weak compared to the one in Korea, but it wasn't nonexistent.

Once you become popular in Korea, interest from abroad tends to naturally follow.

In addition, our cover of Onyx's stage last time seemed to have become a hot topic among overseas K-pop fans.

'I guess that's what they like.'

I'd sold data to foreigners who used translators before, and groups with higher transaction rates than domestic ones had that concept.

Hip-hop base dance songs with strong beats and intense performance.

'Testar is not a group that focuses on that.'

Not everything went according to the trend, but if I had to go abroad someday, I thought it would be okay to try a single title like that once or twice.

Anyway… Let's go back to the speculation that this characteristic came out because we were scheduled for overseas tours this year.

'…Still, I don't think that kind of ability is needed for the tour.'

I spoke English only at the college graduate level. That meant I could attempt light-level communication.

Besides, our team already had a native speaker. Cha Eugene…

"Drink more!"

"Wait, Eugene, let's stop~"

“Y-You drank too much…!”

“…”

Cha Eugene… was the only native speaker.

And the only other person who studied abroad was Seon Ahyeon.

Needless to say, the communication compatibility between those two was disastrous.

‘This… This won’t do.’

I eventually decided to follow the inductive method.

It was better to study foreign languages until I could get the next characteristic than to experience the same situation as when the strong heart and the faucet were thrown away.

Then I had to delete one of the three characteristics I already had… Well, this was obvious.

[Characteristic: I heard it’s true (C) has been deleted!]

I’d never used this characteristic at all since my debut. It didn’t pop out when I persuaded the former director or when I recommended counseling to Seon Ahyeon.

‘Its grade is the lowest, so it’s right to throw it away.’

Now, we weren’t walking on a tightrope while doing group assignments in a crazy survival solo match as we had done in <Idol Inc.>.

I checked my status window again.

[Name: Park Moondae (Ryu Gunwoo)]

Level: 16

Title: None

Vocal: A+

Dance: B

Visual: A-

Talent: B

Characteristics: Infinite potential, International student (A), Bacchus 500 (B), Snatching ears (A)

!Status abnormality: Win an award or die

Remaining points: 2

First of all, the dance stat that naturally grew from B- to B caught my attention.

'It's worth the roll.'

It was a feat achieved while preparing for the year-end stage and the concert. Now, even if I stood next to a guy with passable skills, I would still look good at dancing.

And with the remaining two points that were currently available… Well, I actually had one extra more, so I wanted to put one on the vocal. Because the grade would change.

'I want to check how much the vocal changes when it enters S class.'

However, it seemed okay to add two points to the talent or the dance so that I could have three A stats.

‘What should I do?’

I thought about it for a while and then I made up my mind after thinking about one of my upcoming schedules.

‘I think this is right.’

And as soon as I finished distributing the points, someone tapped me on the back.

“Park Moondae, have you seen this?”

“What is it?”

When I turned my head, Keun Sejin pointed at his smartphone screen.

It was a new message from the Moon Rabbit group chat, which was from the third match of <Idol Inc.> that I hadn’t seen in a long time.

[Ha Iljoon: I heard the concert went well! Congratulations (tearful emoticon) I’m sorry I couldn’t go even though you invited me!]

[Ha Iljoon: Actually, I’m debuting in April! I couldn’t go because I was preparing for my debutㅠㅠ Please take good care of me in the future, Testar sunbae-nim! (greeting emoticon)]

Oh, Gold 1 was debuting.

But is there anything more to say besides congratulations? There didn’t seem to be anything special about it.

“…Ah, hold on. I will scroll it up.”

After checking my expression, Keun Sejin lowered the smartphone screen with his finger.

Then a new message appeared.

[Ha Iljoon: But Wongil from our team is also debuting. If there is an interview asking about you guys' relationship with him, is it okay to say that everything is already solved?]

[Ha Iljoon: I am not saying you guys are close or anything, I would just say that much!]

I see.

Choi Wongil also made his debut as a team in the end.

Since most of Testar members had experienced Choi Wongil's trolls in <Idol Inc> and it was all aired, it definitely sounded like something that would come out bad in an interview.

'It's understandable that Gold 1 worries about it.'

Keun Sejin shrugged.

"What do you think?"

What do you mean, I have no idea.

Gold 1 wasn't a stupid attention seeker so he would really only say that much. It was solved properly.

And considering that Choi Wongil had apologized on the stairs of the broadcasting station, it seemed he had changed his mind enough not to say useless things.

"I don't care."

"Really? Actually, me too. Then I'll post it."

Keun Sejin smiled and posted a message in the group chat room.

[Me: Gasp, hyung-nim is debuting~ Congratulations! (eyes twinkling emoticon) Of course, saying that much in the interviews is fine~ We didn't even fight!]

"That's it? You should post congratulations too~"

"Okay."

"The others, um… They'll post a congratulatory message when they come to their sense, right?"

"I guess."

He meant Seon Ahyeon and Kim Raebin. It was obvious.

He seemed distracted from whether he should be drinking now or stopping Cha Eugene, so he would figure it out later when he came to his senses.

"M-Moondae! Would you like a drink too?!"

"…It's fine."

When our eyes met, he started talking like some kind of P*kemon play. Let's avoid him.

In the end, I ended up getting involved in the mess and drinking wine at the last minute, but anyway, I didn't think that the current situation would cause any particular problems.

Until a few days later, when I found a popular WeTube video posted right before our first comeback on a music show.

==========

[Choi Wongil recording 2]

==========

It wasn't my business thus far.

But it changed when I pressed play.

It was just a recording with only sound on a black background without a video, but a conversation I had heard somewhere came out.

"…??"

Hey, no way.

I went down to the comments.

Someone had kindly added interpretive subtitles.

– I wrote down what I heard.

Choi Wongil: How does it feel to live like that? The world revolves around you…

(Assumed to be) Park Moondae: (sigh)…

Why do I show up here…?

CHAPTER 135

…For now, I kept listening to the recording.

The more I listened to it, the more certain I became that it was the conversation I had with Choi Wongil on the remote stairs of the MBS station.

‘Damn it.’

[Everyone lives like that! As if I was the only one… Everyone was fighting over footage and cursing out.]

Choi Wongil, who poured out excuses by repeatedly bringing up other people, continued in a low-pitched voice.

In fact, just listening to this, it was a build-up that would make you curse. Because he started a quarrel and was only blaming others and crying.

But after this, it even had the magic of editing.

The words’ placement was new.

[Everything worked out for you.]

[…No, that’s not true. Would you do it if I told you to switch with me?]

[…We can’t switch!]

[That means you do want to switch with me. Well… but honestly, you wouldn’t want to change your family.]

[Yes.]

[…]

Choi Wongil's answer, which originally came out after the question of family's regards, suddenly entered the end of the conversation.

Thanks to that, the nuance became much more strange.

'Choi Wongil sounded even worse than he originally was.'

Didn't he sound as if he immediately answered with, 'Yeah, I don't want to live as an orphan like you, I'm only jealous of your career' as soon as I brought up the family matters?

Of course, there was no trace of Choi Wongil's apology afterward. After a few more seconds of crackling sounds, the video ended.

It was a blank space that made it look like Park Moondae was taken aback by Choi Wongil's immediate answer and was rendered speechless.

I guessed this was also intentional.

"…Hmm."

I looked at the comments again.

First of all, there was one top comment that interpreted Choi Wongil's words in a more radical tone than it originally was.

This was the comment I read earlier.

And the next top comment was… Hmm, it was exactly as expected.

It meant half of it was talking about me.

– Wow, are you crazy to pick a fight with me?

– Park Moondae's parents died. What the hell is that reaction…

– ㅋㅋㅋLook at his way of speaking. He's got a great personality.

– Choi Wongil has always been greedy from the first time I saw him, He got crazy even when the good-natured Moondae stick with him, he keeps updating his face ㅉㅉㅉ

– Park Moondae seems to be trying to teach him but hearing such words… Ah… I don't feel good… ㅠㅠ

– Did he really just tell a child whose parents are dead that he's happy his life is going well?

– There's no evidence. Do you really believe this? Are all the comments here Testar's fans…

└The fans who come running with just the smell of gossip ㅋ be a good kid at a time like this~

└There's this record number one and there's also a video, so it's undeniable

└Aren't you ashamed to mention the fans in something like this?

-★☆ There's recording number 1, please listen to it. (Link) ☆★

'…Number 1.'

The title of the video had the number '2' on it, so it seemed there was a number 1.

I clicked on the link in the comment.

A shaky low-resolution camera was capturing Choi Wongil, who was sitting on the stairs outside the broadcasting station and muttering to himself.

‘They draw it out like this.’

It was clear that it was zoomed in and taken with a smartphone.

Choi Wongil was muttering something to himself, but he was probably mentally pushed to the limit and didn’t even know what he was talking about.

The problem was… the content of his mutterings was aimed at netizens.

[Originally, the bastards who write comments without thinking… They don’t even know what they wrote, they quickly forget it…]

In fact, it was something that Choi Wongil could say.

He was bullied so much on the internet, so he might say things like that when he was consulting or making a resolution to himself.

In fact, it could be sympathetic.

However, it was perfect to incite the people who had cursed Choi Wongil during <Idol Inc.>.

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋ The self-consolation is pitiful

– He got cursed at for his personality, but he’s blaming others…

– Yes, there are cases like that, but you’re not one of them

Here, too, the criticism and the sneers in the comments were unstoppable.

It must be because of the justification given by the well-edited recording of the conversation he had with me.

"…"

My head was throbbing.

First of all, I knew they didn't mean to snipe me.

'They're trying to catch Choi Wongil.'

It was clear from the fact that they carefully edited the recording and uploaded it.

Maybe the person I had seen under the stairs at the broadcasting station was this bastard.

They must be determined considering that they didn't upload it at that time and stayed still until Choi Wongil's group debut article appeared.

'And they used me here.'

It drove me crazy that this bastard used Park Moondae as firewood to raise the stake.

Did you see the stream of comments that sympathize and defend me?

It was easy to mistake it as a good thing because public opinion was favorable, but it absolutely was not.

This meant that the image of having an unfortunate family history buried in the background narrative had risen out of the water again.

The articles posted on SNS immediately were like this.

– Saying the words ‘I hope you continue to do well’ to someone who lost their parents in an accident and even dropped out due to school bullying, there’s a problem with your empathic intelligence.

– I’m going to cry when I think about what it must have been like for Park Moondae back then. Choi Wongil is really out of his mind.

They weren’t even Testar’s fan account.

‘…The time to get benefit from this is long past.’

Now that the group had succeeded in settling down instead of being in the middle of an audition where one vote would be a waste, this topic was more of an obstacle.

Because the image would change.

Imagine that when people see Park Moondae, they think of the shockingly unfortunate past before they think of the stage or group image.

During Testar’s new album activity, at that.

They could get tired of content that should be enjoyable and mindlessly fun.

‘…I’d rather be a crybaby and get laughed at.’

In summary, now this was bad news for me, too.

‘So many things happen from the day of the first comeback broadcast… ’

I was already tired.

“…Sigh.”

First of all, let's control the situation that I could get in touch with.

I immediately informed the manager of the situation.

And after confirming that the manager had gone out with his smartphone, I immediately looked for Gold 1 in my contacts.

After checking my actions, Ryu Chungwoo immediately spoke to me.

"What's wrong?"

"…Top 5 popular Wetube videos… No, check out the top three."

The real-time ranking was already going up.

Crazy.

Keun Sejin came running, perhaps already checking it.

"Is this really Choi Wongil?"

"The nuance has changed because it was edited. Wait a minute."

Gold 1 finally answered the phone.

"Hyung."

– Moondae, do you…

"I saw it."

– Right. I'm sorry to ask, but what Wongil said…

"It's been edited. It wasn't that kind of nonsense, and Choi Wongil apologized afterward."

I could hear a sigh of relief.

– Sigh… First of all, I'm really, really glad it's not true… It's driving me crazy.

"Does the company there know everything?"

– Yeah, they've already started the meeting. By the way…

Gold 1 sighed loudly.

-… Actually, Choi Wongil is not in a very good state right now. I don't know what the company will do either. I hope it works out.

"…"

– For now, I'll tell the company about the situation again. Dees your company know?

"Yes, I told them."

Maybe the agencies had already contacted each other.

– Then I think it'll work out somehow. But, sigh… What do I do with Wongil?

Gold 1 hurriedly hung up after offering me a few words of consolation as well.

And I got a rough idea of the situation.

'Choi Wongil… He might get cut off from the debut group like this.'

Public opinion was also destructive for the company so it seemed they were gradually considering the stop loss. There was a nuance that if the

response was not good even after the clarification, he would be taken out.

And considering that Choi Wongil was not in a good state… Wait, I didn't feel good about this.

I hoped those bastards didn't think of anything weird.

"…"

I broke out in a cold sweat.

This… The speed of recovery could be a threat.

'If it is fixed late, the rebound will be severe.'

If this controversy continued to regenerate and grew f*cking big, let's assume that the agency gave a clarification after they cut corners and poor Choi Wongil hit rock bottom.

Even if the situation settled down then, the backlash would pour on me.

Why?

Because I was caught in a good versus evil format with Choi Wongil.

Let's be objective. What I said in this recording was not a very good remark.

It was just something an idol would say in the face of a quarrel.

But now, it was mercilessly taken in as some sort of noble remark.

Because they had to make me a poor and good victim to get a better angle at cursing Choi Wongil.

However, if Choi Wongil got criticized and was only clarified afterward, sympathetic opinions would rise and the situation would be reversed.

– Honestly, it was Park Moondae who suddenly started talking about family, but he could get away with it because he has so many fans

– Choi Wongil's flaw is not having any fansㅠ

Perhaps in this way, Park Moondae's fans would likely get attacked for making Park Moondae the victim and attracting public opinion.

Naturally, in the process, Park Moondae's past controversy would come up again.

It would be another round of exciting realization of justice.

'Never.'

Before it could develop to that point, it should be recovered while this was still happening.

Choi Wongil was also a young man that had experienced too much bitterness to suffer more from this misunderstanding.

'I have to quickly knock it down.'

I had no choice but to unf*ck Choi Wongil by tying things up before the articles appeared on the main page.

After a quick phone call with the company through the manager, I got confirmation right away.

"What are you going to do?"

Bae Sejin sneaked up and asked.

Looking at the atmosphere, it seemed the situation had already spread to the members.

“I have to explain.”

“On Testar’s account?”

“No.”

Bae Sejin seemed to think about the time when he posted his statement, but it wasn’t like that now.

‘If I upload it myself, the topic will get bigger.’

Then, the attention on Testar’s comeback could be controversial.

However, if the companies made an official statement, words like ‘The companies have already collaborated with each other, I feel sorry for Park Moondae’ would definitely come out.

Then there was only one way.

Use a third party.

I called Gold 1 again.

– Yeah, what is it?

“Do you have time?”

– I do. Do you have any urgent news?

“Something like that. I’m going to make a message record.”

–…??

The live performance was right around the corner. Let's make the evidence in 30 minutes.

* * *

Excited aggressors, the public who were immersed in the situation, and Park Moondae's fans who were extremely angry started beating up Choi Wongil from every direction.

Since there were very few people who stood up for him, the news of the recording was spreading without reinterpretation.

Meanwhile, Park Moondae's personality stock price temporarily reached its peak.

[Park Moondae crying when fans sing along at the concert]

[A collection of testimony that Park Moondae took care of other participants throughout Idol Inc]

[Park Moondae's situation when he dropped out.jpg]

From the beginning of the airing of <Idol Inc.> until recently, all kinds of topics had been brought up.

However, Park Moondae's fans felt complicated.

Various opinions swirled, from those who were angry with Choi Wongil to those who were worried about the aftermath, but they were all taken aback by this sudden situation all the same.

– Is it normal if you feel bad about your child's past coming up like a public good?

– I was so angry when I heard the recording that I was going to go crazy

– 大ㅇㄱI'm really pissed. They have to do a comeback stage in 30 minutes ㅅㅂI hope the kids just go through it without knowing anything… ㅠㅠ

– Still, it's a relief that everyone knows that Moondae is a kind puppy

It was at this time that a post was uploaded on Gold 1's SNS.

==========

(Photo)

After listening to Wongil's words, I thought a lot about it and asked directly. He's a friend who tries really hard, so I hope you don't hate him too much.

Wongil doesn't have an SNS account, so I upload it to my account instead.

==========

On the photo was… the screenshot of Gold 1's own chat room.

And the name of the room marked at the top was 'Park Moondae dongsaeng'.

The content of the screenshot started with Gold 1 sending a message.

[Me: Moondae, I'm sorry, but can you take a look at this? Is this real? (link to video)]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: ?]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: Wait a minute]

The link was, of course, 'Choi Wongil Recording 2'.

And after some time passed as long as the duration of the video, a reply came.

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: No, what's this]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: It wasn't like this…]

[Me: ㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠㅠ]

[Me: It wasn't…?]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: ㅇㅇ This is edited.]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: At that time the conversation was ended by exchanging best regards with Wongil]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: Tell Wongil to sue the person who posted this for defamation. They changed the order of his words]

[Me: ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅠㅠ Okay! Thank you (heart shooting emoticon)]

[Park Moondae dongsaeng: What's with you (yellow puppy greeting emoticon)

About 14 minutes later, Gold 1 asked 'Is it okay to screenshot and upload this' and the screenshot ended with Park Moondae giving his permission.

– Heol…

– It's all fabricated these days

– This is Ha Iljoon's disclosure, right?

– Crazy bastard

And unlike any agency, Gold 1's agency, who was good at their job, spread the articles and dominated WeTube's top comments in line with fluctuating public opinion.

– It's manipulation (link)

– Park Moondae's testimony came out. Choi Wongil is going to sue for the editing ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– There's an article about it. The agency said they're really suing. Crazy guy.

Like that, the criticism for Choi Wongil began to subside before the water level reached the point of no return, before it was caught in the main portal.

When the people who were cursing got a little embarrassed and excited, the arrow of criticism could go back to the person who manipulated the recording.

As soon as the music show ended, Park Moondae grabbed his smartphone and quickly checked the situation.

* * *

'For now, I have put out the urgent fire.'

I sighed as I turned off my smartphone screen.

However, this response was only a stopgap measure.

Once the person who uploaded this recording caught onto something else, Choi Wongil might get hit by another roller-coaster.

And I still had a long way to go.

The topic of the family history that once popped up hadn't been sealed yet.

In addition, the response to the clarification article I just saw in the comments made me uncomfortable.

– He must have been hurt a lot by things like this while growing up, but he is a young man with a very kind heart. I think Choi Wongil also had a great experience and should use it as an opportunity for discipline.

– A good person like Park Moondae should do well ㅠㅠ. I hope he's doing better in the future!

– Wow, Choi Wongil survived thanks to Moondae…

To sum up, 'Nice Moondae nicely passed these hurdles'.

No matter how much I tweaked it, the dispute with Choi Wongil didn't disappear, so my message to correct Gold 1 was misrepresented as me having a caring good heart.

If it had ended there, it would have come to nothing, but the problem was the work that went into it.

It seemed Choi Wongil's agency was worried that the clarification article itself would be a wound that swell up.

So, they wanted to shut off the topic altogether and focused on Park Moondae's 'kind response' rather than Choi Wongil, releasing the articles and pushing public opinion.

The results were the comments I saw earlier.

'This is frustrating.'

I had a bad feeling about this.

God's song, Angel. The quicker you have this modifier attached to you, the quicker it can get taken off.

Even a single weakness might destroy my image, but the problem was that there would be more than one or two people waiting to catch that weakness.

'The people who made the card news to prevent me from receiving the Rookie Award didn't suddenly disappear.'

In this situation, it was enough that I didn't stand out and just subtly looked like a nice guy. Having such an openly good image was a burden.

'I don't avoid selling my personality for no reason.'

So, overall, a conclusion was decided.

'I have to play the image.'

A strong impact was needed, strong enough to cover this uproar right at the beginning of this activity.

'The answer is… only entertainment shows.'

CHAPTER 136

Entertainment.

It was a schedule that was inevitable for idols whose activities were on track and produced results.

Recently, the popularity of idols themselves had decreased a lot, so some said that it was difficult to catch a variety show even if you had good grades, but Testar didn't fall under this category.

Because we were in last year's number one variety show, <Idol Inc.>.

If you had some interest in the entertainment industry, you would have seen the faces and names of the members who were the top participants of <Idol Inc.> at least once, even if you didn't know Testar.

Last year's activities should have proved our performance, and I knew that we had received quite a lot of entertainment offers this comeback.

Thanks to this, I was able to set up the right entertainment schedule that I wanted.

"Are you nervous~?"

"Somewhat."

Keun Sejin grinned.

"Hey, me too!"

His eyes were burning with too much ambition for someone who was nervous.

‘It’s not surprising.’

The only Testar members heading to the set were me and Keun Sejin.

This was because the variety show’s format didn’t allow the entire group to participate, so the offer came down through several discussions and the two of us won.

It was almost the first time for a member to individually join a variety show like this. And that Keun Sejin would never miss an opportunity to appeal as an individual.

‘Was the unit performance successful?’

Well, it wasn’t a bad thing anyway.

“You know even if I don’t tell you, right? Say hello when you arrive there~”

“Yes!”

“Yes.”

As we nodded obediently to the manager’s words, we first greeted the cast as soon as we arrived.

“Hello!”

Our group had only been around for two years, so I had expected it, but there was really no one younger than us.

But no one ignored us.

“Oh~ Testar!”

Because our popularity and grades were certain.

‘As expected, continuously rising is the answer.’

Still, the fact that Keun Sejin exchanged numbers with three actors in an instant was truly a rare feat.

And, in the waiting room, I found a face that was quite welcome.

“Gasp! Sunbae-nim~!”

“Ah, glad to see you. Both of you.”

It was Youngrin, the female idol who had served as <Idol Inc.>’s representative.

“I’ve been listening to your news. It’s nice to meet you like this. I wish others would have seen it too.”

Youngrin said some words of regard and added jokingly.

“I’m going to release a solo album this year, so let’s not overlap.”

…I was suddenly reminded of the nightmare of having to coincide with VTIC at the beginning of the debut.

“Haha! That’s scary, we have to postpone it, sunbae-nim.”

“I really look forward to the album.”

“Thank you.”

Youngrin smiled slightly and nodded.

And next to her, um… There was someone unexpected.

It was our first time meeting, but as soon as we finished our greetings, she looked at me delightfully.

“Moondae-ssi, right? Wow, you look like this! Let’s do well on today’s shoot.~”

She was… a member of MallangDalkom.

The girl group MallangDalkom was the original singer of <POP☆CON>, which I danced to in the first ranking evaluation, and of <To a New World>, which I changed to a Halloween concept before the first team match.

And the person I met now… Mmm, she was the only member of the MallangDalkom who was active as a popular actor.

In any case, it meant she was a senior in terms of years, so I bowed my head.

“I look forward to your kind cooperation…”

‘Wait a minute.’

Come to think of it, everyone knew that I was a fan of MallangDalkom.

‘Does she think that I’m a fan, too?’

Sure enough, the MallangDalkom member asked with a grin.

“Hey, which of our members are you a fan of? We made a small bet among ourselves.”

There was only one answer to this.

"…Of course, I am a fan of all of you."

"Hey, you're not my fan, are you? You're good at escaping this, Moondae-ssi!"

The MallangDalkom member laughed loudly and hit my thigh.

'It's like treating a cousin or a younger brother.'

Maybe I… It seemed I had developed a one-sided friendship because I had danced to popcorn so much.

"Of course, I'm kidding! Thanks to Moondae-ssi, we had a lot of fun for the first time in a while. Thank you. Let's do well on today's shoot!"

"…Thank you."

At this rate, I would get a MallangDalkom signed CD.

Anyway, it was good to see people we had ties with among the cast.

'It's good to have the stories edited here and there.'

Rather than having cast members who didn't know each other at all, it was better to group us together and get more footage.

There was such a big age gap between us, so the probability of getting unnecessary old-fashioned love broadcast editing was low.

'Still, it's more comfortable to be of the same gender.'

Unfortunately, among the rest of the cast, I didn't see anyone else with overlapping activities or acquaintances.

…I thought so up until this point.

Perhaps because they had quite busy schedules, some of them barely managed to arrive right before the shooting.

“Hello~”

They were two VTIC members.

*‘F*ck.’*

Why are these bastards here?

If they appeared in a group, it was at the level of organizing a special feature even if it meant changing the variety show’s format, but why did they have to show up when they weren’t even if the middle of an activity?

At that moment, Keun Sejin, who had come wearing a microphone, poked me in the back and whispered.

“Hey, Leti is doing a good job.”

“Leti?”

LeTi Entertainment. VTIC and MallangDalkom’s agency.

Keun Sejin gestured with his eyes. He was pointing to the actors whose numbers he had gotten.

“There’s a group of actors, MallangDalkom… It’s Soohyun sunbae-nim’s first movie team.”

“…!”

“They’re in the same agency. They must have agreed to appear as a group by inserting VTIC.”

…Did the cast come out as a group to promote the movie?

Thanks to that, it seemed the two VTIC members who were on break personally came out.

They also owned the company stocks, so it was only natural that they would be generous with promoting celebrities belonging to the same company.

Keun Sejin smiled slightly.

“But are you fine with it, Moondae?”

“With what?”

“I don’t see the sunbae-nim who’s in charge of Moondae’s social life~”

“…”

It seemed he had noticed that I was uncomfortable with Cheongryeo.

Well, he was probably just guessing, ‘I guess he’s more of a bastard than I thought’.

I smiled and shook my head.

“No, that doesn’t really matter.”

“Oh, is that so?”

Right.

Cheongryeo wouldn’t smash my head with a hammer right away on this crowded set.

It was just… Meeting such a crazy person would be tiring and annoying.

‘It doesn’t matter whether he’s here or not.’

The problem was… The fact that VTIC itself showed up. We had the same boy idol position, but there was a difference in level.

I spoke frankly.

“I’m worried about the amount of footage.”

“Huh?”

Keun Sejin burst into laughter.

“Hey, Moondae is worrying about the amount of footage of entertainment shows! But don’t worry too much~”

“…?”

Keun Sejin lowered his voice and whispered.

“Those two sunbae-nims don’t really talk on entertainment shows.”

“…!!”

“They must have been sent in a hurry. Hm, don’t you think they’ll just do it in moderation and then leave?”

That meant they were members who didn’t have much interest in entertainment, so they wouldn’t be so motivated.

To be honest, I was a little impressed.

‘This bastard’s brain works really well.’

He was a real one for collecting information and figuring it out.

I nodded.

“I have to work harder.”

“I will do my best.”

We exchanged rare unnecessary fistbumps.

The mic was turned on, and the filming soon began.

* * *

“Sensational Saturday! We invite you to the joy of weekend nights, <Saturday Party>!”

“Woow!”

<Saturday Party> was a full-fledged variety show hosted by a national MC.

As you could guess from the name, it was a very boring program, but it ended in the late 2000s and was revived a few years ago due to the retro craze.

A program with high ratings that started on Saturday at 8:50 p.m. on public TV.

In short, it was an extremely popular entertainment show.

There were no unnecessary family guests and they could show the characters in a fun and impactful way with just a few scenes.

It had all the elements I was looking for.

But… It was necessary to let go of my self-confidence.

Because the concept required resistance.

Dudumts, dudumts!

Right now, the MC was DJing in the 80's style DJ booth, shaking his bob hair.

He seemed really into it. His professionalism was great.

"Today's party concept? <One heart two bodies>!"

Words that were notified in advance came out.

"Exclusively~ Today's stage where only similar-looking people, similar party people, can enter! Our party people, please appear now!"

Thanks to this, I matched my hair and my clothes with Keun Sejin.

By the way, perhaps aware of this concept, one of the member combinations that the company thought of for this variety show was 'Keun Sejin and Bae Sejin' pair.

Of course, thanks to Bae Sejin's aggressive mortification, the idea fell through even before they could discuss it.

"Our turn."

"Yeah."

It was time for me and Keun Sejin to appear on the set.

[The party people who are going to enter this time are… Oh~ So young! So handsome!]

With the MC's amazing introduction, we were going to go up to the stage and performed a dance we had prepared.

This was because the MC… Throughout the performers' dance, he reproduced cheesy entertainment captions that were popular as memes in the past.

[Dancing magic! Soaring Stock! Testar's two shining stars have come down to Earth!]

It seemed the funny point was that the cast members collapsed because they couldn't stand the words that echoed through the microphone into the venue.

But I didn't think me or Keun Sejin collapsing would be entertaining. It probably would be different if Ryu Chungwoo and Seon Ahyeon were the ones who show up.

So I decided to do it in reverse.

Keun Sejin and I stealthily surrounded the DJ booth while dancing.

"…?!"

The MC was a little flustered.

"Wow, the best national MC!"

"I will show you what hosting is! It's the host!"

"A presence that even a booth cannot confine! A light that rings the whole country!"

"Ruling over Saturday evening. This is the statement of a great man!"

"The only person who can capture the excitement and the laughter at the same time is the person in the DJ seat!"

[No…!]

It was the MC who collapsed instead.

At first, he looked really embarrassed, but it seemed he was also matching our tunes a bit.

'Thank goodness.'

I was relieved that I didn't have to say anything worse.

However, next to me, Keun Sejin laughed and sprouted all the remaining comments.

"Korean entertainment history is divided into before and after Choi Hosoo. He is the standard of entertainment!"

"…"

That was how the dance stage ended.

The MC, who had come back to his sense, held back his laughter and left a great ending comment.

"Taking over the stage as soon as they entered! This is entertainment! Passion, spirit, love, and peace!"

"Thank you!"

Me and Keun Sejin came down the stage.

'…Sigh.'

First of all… I had done everything I had aimed for in this part. Even the staff was laughing, so the impact was good.

However, as soon as I sat in the chair provided for the cast, the agony came.

I was also determined to prepare for the broadcast before appearing, but it was amazing how entertainment shows could test a person's resistance.

'People who aimed this format… There are so many.'

I couldn't believe it. But ratings didn't lie.

'Let's just make a reaction.'

I gave a big round of applause to the VTIC guys who took the stage last.

As Keun Sejin said, it seemed they didn't have particular intentions in this variety show and hadn't prepared anything big.

"Heavenly good looks!"

After all 12 cast members appeared, the program began in earnest.

"Actually, the reason we had this party today is… To find a fake!"

"No, isn't it strange that we have people with similar looks? One must be a doppelganger! There's a fake!"

…With this concept, all I heard was that the co-stars had to split up and had a 6:6 team match.

"The decisive person who made the team lose! That person… will be penalized!"

When the person who got the penalty was selected in the first game, his real intention was revealed.

"Huh? Why doesn't our Zuho-ssi, who entered with us, come out?"

"Y-Yes?"

“Since you have the same body, you should be punished together~ You’re a doppelganger! That’s why it’s called <One heart two bodies>!”

“…!!”

Right.

When a penalty was issued, the doppelganger of that person on the opposing team was also punished.

“No, oh, my God!”

“Then I shouldn’t aim for that side?”

“No, the team winning is important! Let’s just get the punishment~”

Surprisingly, no one was notified, so the cast was really surprised.

In the gap between all the whisperings, I made eye contact with Keun Sejin.

‘Let’s get a penalty.’

‘Okay.’

In a critical situation like getting a penalty, our reaction would be good to pick out our characters. I had to take the penalty no matter what.

“The penalty for this team match is… Water balloon bomb!”

“Gasp!”

Hmmm, getting that much was fine.

But when the opportunity came, an interruption entered.

There was a one-on-one situation left in this team match, the mirror ball dodgeball.

The lineup consisted of me and the VTIC members.

And right at that moment, the only remaining VTIC member on the opponent's side caught the ball.

'The last person to be eliminated will get the penalty.'

Due to the nature of this program, I would have done that 100% to make it funny.

'Ah, it's because you couldn't win even though you stayed until the end, so that's the cause of the defeat~'

They probably would say something like that. There were a lot of records.

'It'll be fine to get hit here.'

I was ready to get hit by the ball.

"It's over!"

"Hit him!"

But the VTIC member on the opponent's side started to do something crazy.

He looked at me with ambiguous eyes, and while pretending to throw a ball, he stepped on the gold and was eliminated.

"…??"

"Oops! I made a mistake!"

‘What’s this?’

What the hell is that bastard doing?

He even winked and signaled when our eyes met.

He looked like a senior in high school who covered for the freshman in a presentation.

‘What the hell?’

CHAPTER 137

The penalty was stolen by VTIC.

“Then, the two of you, please come up to the stage!”

“Oh, too bad!”

“It’s a bit unfair~”

Instead of putting me out, one other guy and one VTIC member, who voluntarily stepped on the gold and went into the penalty, were hit with water balloons with unremarkable reactions.

Seeing his appearance that didn’t have any special features and would have passed by in a three-second-cut if he wasn’t a guy who sold 1.8 million albums in the first week, as Keun Sejin said, it seemed he really didn’t have much passion for entertainment.

‘…It meant he didn’t get eliminated on purpose to get enough footage.’

Then, does that proud face really come from a ‘caring heart for new idols’?

‘It was a real mistake, but isn’t it more convincing to say that he did it because he was embarrassed?’

My eyes met Keun Sejin’s. Smiling like a painting, he pointed his finger at himself.

It was frustrating but it couldn’t be helped, it seemed to mean that he would actively try to get a penalty next time.

“Now, for this team match~ Find ssanghwacha[1]Ssanghwacha is a **traditional herbal medicine** that has been widely used for thousands of years, especially **during the Joseon Dynasty,** to treat infirmity, relieve fatigue, and facilitate recovery after an illness. !”

However, in the next team match, this strange and ridiculous situation continued.

“No egg yolks! The team of the first person to choose the ssanghwacha will lose~ Now, let’s dance to the music and choose!”

In short, it was a game with an ambiguous 90s vibe that combined chair stealing and randomness.

‘It’s all about luck.’

Thinking that I would pass this one, I chose it without thinking much about it. With the way things were going, it would be funnier if I got caught.

Of course, it was much more likely that I got the one with the egg yolk.

“Ah, Moondae-ssi! Pass!”

And it came true. The ssanghwacha I chose had yolk in it.

Then the VTIC guys clapped and started to make a fuss.

“Oh, that’s amazing!”

“Wow, how did you get it right like this?”

“…”

What’s wrong with you, bastards.

I gave a rough answer and moved on, but it was obvious that they weren't trying to make fun of me, it was an ambiguous and unnatural warm-hearted kindness.

In the end, the MC, who couldn't watch it, tried to make it funny by pointing it out.

"No, since a while ago, why are the two of you only showing great reactions to Moondae?"

"Ah, hyung-nim, you don't know anything~ The popular ones are close to each other~!"

"Is that so~?"

The VTIC guys waved their hands.

"No, no~ We're just good friends!"

"It was cool that he got it right without thinking much about it."

Rather than supporting the claim, they just denied it, so the picture became ambiguous again. I guessed it was true that those two were bad at entertainment.

But why are you trolling me with that?

'Are you trying to screw with me?'

I took a look at them just in case, but I didn't feel any signs of provocation.

'It's driving me crazy.'

And this time, the punishment was taken by the MallangDalkom member.

“Look closely!… Isn’t it yolk? It’s a canned one, right?!”

“Argh!”

The penalty was gosamcha[2]Gosamcha = one of Korean tea and apparently tastes very bitter… Youngrin, who carried out the punishment together as the doppelganger, did a one-shot without changing her expression, eliciting reactions even from the staff.

‘I’m jealous.’

It would have been nice if I had drank the gosamcha and spit it out.

At this rate, I wouldn’t be able to get a penalty and ended up as a reaction folding screen and side footage for VTIC.

‘Should I be more active?’

While I was thinking about changing the route, the filming stopped for a while.

“Cut! I’ll go ahead and renew it~”

“Let’s check our microphones for a moment.”

“Yes!”

It was time for a short maintenance and a break.

“I’m going to the bathroom.”

“Yeah.”

Keun Sejin sneaked out following the MC, and I deliberately sipped my drink and waited for the timing.

Then the opponents moved first.

“Hello, hubae-nim~”

“We were in such a hurry that we couldn’t even say hello properly, right?”

The VTIC guys smiled and talked to me.

Although they were the ones who never introduced themselves, they couldn’t straighten their faces for social life.

“…Yes, it’s been a while, sunbae-nims.”

“Ah~ Sunbae-nim sounds so awkward. Just call us hyung!”

“That’s right. Don’t call us that, it’s like we’re too old.”

Rather than the impression that these guys with 8-years differences were saying something without conscience, I felt something that I had felt earlier.

‘Hmm?’

You guys… Why are you guys so awkward?

‘They look like they’re breaking into cold sweats.’

It seemed they tried to talk to me warmly and kindly in their own way, but there were limits.

The guys who used to do this… So, it wasn’t the kind of feeling that I was accustomed to with people of influence like Keun Sejin or Ryu Chungwoo.

It seemed they weren’t used to being a sociable older person.

‘What’s with them?’

Let’s give them a proper answer first.

“It’s not a matter of age, you are great seniors, how I can call you carelessly like that…”

“What do you mean with great senior~ Ugh!”

“Just call us comfortably!”

“…”

Wow, these guys are working hard.

This was more embarrassing than when the penalty was stolen earlier.

I was speechless. Perhaps thinking it was an implicit agreement, the two men exchanged glances.

Then, one of them opened his mouth with a dry cough.

“Hmm, variety shows are very difficult, right?”

“Yes? Yes…”

Without the two of you, the level of difficulty would have dropped by two levels.

But both of them had proud faces.

“Oh, don’t overdo it while filming… If you’re having a hard time, send me SOS. I’ll help you.”

“…??”

“Ah, don’t feel pressured! If you get a junior later, treat them well. Don’t mind us.”

And these two guys were exchanging expressions like ‘Oh, aren’t you good at talking?’.

It was amazing.

“…”

I put up with the headache and asked openly.

“…Then, the gold you stepped on earlier.”

“Haha! No~ Was it that obvious?”

“No, I think this hubae just has a good sense.”

“Right? Anyway… Don’t worry too much. It just happened to be~”

…Now, I knew for sure.

‘These guys, they did it completely out of goodwill.’

They said the road to hell is paved with good intentions, and it was exactly what happened.

In addition, their idea of helping was one-dimensional.

Even considering that they didn’t have much experience in entertainment shows, they didn’t seem to be the kind of people who knew how to roll their brains.

‘I think they’ll be robbed of a warranty or a business scam within five years.’

No matter how smoothly the VTIC grew, considering that they had been in this hellish K-pop society for eight years, they were pretty dull.

'…Are they the ones that Cheongryeo added to change to the group?'

If he looked for people who wouldn't get into accidents and were easy to deal with, it could be these kinds of people.

Anyway, they didn't seem to have any complicated thoughts, so I could just cut them off in moderation.

"Thank you very much. But I'm going to try as hard as I can. You don't have to be considerate like you did before."

"Huh?"

The slightly flustered guys pondered for a while before opening their mouths again with embarrassed faces.

"Um, actually, I heard something from Cheongryeo hyung."

"…??"

What is this again.

'He wouldn't have said anything useless.'

Right as the top of my head was about to cool down, the guy in front of me smiled.

"No, Moondae-ssi is really hardworking and a good junior, so please treat him well, he said something like that!"

"…!!"

“That’s right! But he’s the kind of person who doesn’t really say things like that.”

“Yeah. He had very few close friends… It was amazing that he got close to hubae-nim.”

We’re not close.

“He may look a little gloomy, but… Still, Jaehyun, I mean, Cheongryeo hyung is a lot better than you think.”

“That’s right. He donated half of his settlement to the stray dogs center.”

“Heol, he donated half of it?”

“Yeah, I was freaked out more than when hyung used a bank app.”

“He lives like a mountain spirit, but he really likes animals.”

The two of them talked and then got lost in a conversation among themselves. And when they came to their senses, they awkwardly fell out of it.

“No, why did the topic go this way? Anyway, this is also meant to be, so if you have any difficulties during today’s filming, tell me~ It’s something like that.”

“Are you having a hard time now?”

“…”

I heard so much nonsense that I suddenly got distracted.

I punched myself inside.

*‘Who the f*ck cares? Get a grip.’*

Whether Cheongryeo was the guardian of stray dogs or not, it was his business.

What mattered now was my goal. The current shooting.

I picked out the vocabulary and opened my mouth.

“Actually…”

After explaining the situation I was in, the two were horrified when I indirectly informed them that I was actually aiming for a penalty.

“Heol! Really?”

“Hey, I’m sorry!”

“Should I drive the penalty to you now?”

“Can you do this as a penalty?”

“…It’s fine.”

Instead, I made a light request, and the VTIC members readily agreed.

“Hey, Moondae~”

Right after that, Keun Sejin returned from the bathroom.

“Did you hear something good?”

“So so. You?”

“Hey, I went to the bathroom, so how could I hear anything good~?”

Seeing him smile while answering, it seemed he had achieved something, but his mouth said something else.

Sure enough, the loots soon popped out.

“Just… Somehow our paths ended up overlapping, so I had a conversation with MC Choi Hosoo. And we exchanged numbers.”

As expected.

“Looks like you had a fruitful conversation.”

“Well, we talked about the direction of the entertainment show.”

Keun Sejin grinned.

“I said the two of us would never get a penalty.”

“…!”

“So, I am going to try to get a reaction by giving you a penalty somehow.”

It was great.

* * *

The second half of the filming ended well with the cooperation of several cast members.

‘Looks like it came out better than planned.’

Now it was a matter of editing, but honestly, I wasn’t too worried.

I wouldn’t cut this out if I were the PD.

“Thank you for your hard work.~”

“Good job!”

“Yeah, it was great today!”

Anyway, I left the set after bowing my head just like when I first arrived.

And in the car on my way to the next schedule.

After the filming ended well, an unwelcome call suddenly came into the quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: I heard you met the kids at the filming today.]

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: How is it? I hope it was helpful ^^]

“…Sigh.”

Since the moment I met the VTIC guys, I thought it would be like this somehow.

It was ridiculous, but if you looked at it like this, the content of the message itself was somehow normal.

‘The problem with meeting him is that he’s crazy.’

After pressing my eyelids a few times, I replied.

[Yes, the sunbae-nims helped me. Thank you.]

And surprisingly, I got a reply after a while.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: I’m glad they helped. Don’t you want to work with better team members again?]

*‘F*ck.’*

Whatever I do, are you going to tell me to quit and start all over again?

VTIC guys' nonsense echoed in my mind.

– Jaehyun, I mean, Cheongryeo hyung is a lot better than you think… A lot better… A lot better…

Like hell he was.

That meant all the decent people were freezing to death.

But the VTIC guys didn't seem to lie about it. In other words, the example itself… seemed to be the truth.

'…Just try it once.'

With superhuman patience, I tried to reply by assuming that the other person was normal for once.

[I don't want to. And just hearing that kind of thing over and over again is very stressful. I'm almost at my limit just thinking about the mission.]

[I am really having a hard time, so please stop it.]

And there was no reply for a long time.

'…Did I step on a landmine?'

However, even if my burial in a wild mountain had entered a countdown, I would never die alone.

'I need to make this bastard socially dead, too.'

Leaning on my neck pillow, I began to polish the inside that I had thought of before.

Somehow… It was like a repetitive labor to calm the mind.

“Hmm.”

Then, again, a reply came back all of sudden.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: Got it.]

“…!”

Several tens of seconds passed.

After that, the next text arrived.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim: I’m sorry.]

“…”

The text ended with that.

“…Phew.”

I turned off my smartphone and closed my eyes again.

People were so mysterious.

* * *

When Park Moondae was lost in thought in the car, articles were slowly popping up on the Internet.

[Choi Hosoo’s <Saturday Party>, a special lineup is coming… From VTIC to Testar]

[Testar’s variety show outing? Shooting <Saturday Party>, “Please look forward to it!”]

– Heol, Vtic, Testar

– I’m so glad that they appear on a variety show, not as co-hosts

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋI know, right

– Cheongryeo and Park Moondae were really funny… I want to see them again, are they going to come out?

And shortly afterward, it was also revealed which of Testar members would appear.

– Moondae and Keunsen

– Ah, it’s Moondae, I love itㅠㅠ

– Saturday party. Finally, the day has come for Mom to open up to Testar business!

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋCongratulations.

– Why Lee Se-jin; Shouldn’t Cha Eugene come out?

└I think it’s because he’s a member of the variety show?

└You’re talking as if he is. It’s funny that 6th place comes out first. He doesn’t know his place, but if you think about their recognition or popularity, shouldn’t first place or second place winner come out first?

└The momentum to risk one’s life on one variety show

└People will think it’s us who put them in

– Moondae fighting! ㅎㅎㅎ

And after examining all these reactions, there were also people who were relieved.

‘There’s almost no one cursing at Moondae!’

The graduate student was relieved and left the page she was reading. She was Park Moondae’s fan who browsed the Internet after being sunk by a wave of English comments on WeTube.

Recently, there was a favorable atmosphere toward Moondae, so she was excited.

Her homma friend seemed very uneasy, but it didn’t make much sense to her.

‘Isn’t it nice that everyone knows Moondae is kind and cute?’

Thinking back on the days when she was worried that Moondae would see malicious comments, she felt like a fairy now.

‘I’m looking forward to the variety show!’

The graduate student laughed and stomped her feet on the bed, but she couldn’t resist her fangirling heart and logged on to WeTube.

Then she clicked on a thumbnail that was still on the list of top video rankings

‘I should watch it one more time before I go to sleep.’

It was Testar’s new music video.

- 1. Ssanghwacha is a **traditional herbal medicine** that has been widely used for thousands of years, especially **during the Joseon Dynasty,** to treat infirmity, relieve fatigue, and facilitate recovery after an illness.

- 2. Gosamcha = one of Korean tea and apparently tastes very bitter.

CHAPTER 138

When she clicked on the music video, the video title caught her attention before the 5-second advertisement.

[Testar(TeSTAR) ‘Midnight, and Next (00:01)’ Official MV]

[View count 22,147,586]

‘Wow, it’s 22 million.’

It was 20 million when she saw it a while ago, but even though it had only been a week since its release, the number of views was accumulating quite fast.

The time it took to reach 10 million was also a new record for the group.

‘I’m watching it again.’

The graduate student shrugged, saying that it was understandable.

Because Testar’s music video this time was a bit different from the previous ones.

“Ah, here we go.”

At that moment, the commercial ended and the music video started.

[…]

An antique gramophone covered in dust and cobwebs was captured on the screen.

A white hand came out of a corner and pressed the phonograph needle.

Thud, thud, thud.

The cobweb snapped, and a slow, crackling melody began to play out.

It was lo-fi jazz with its sound quality lowered on purpose.

A romantic and sad piano rang out.

Before she knew it, the screen changed to the entrance of a mansion.

Although it was old, the structure of the mansion had a trace of luxury and displayed tremendous visual beauty in the captured frame.

And in the middle.

Under the dusty, glowing chandelier, the focus was on the figure of seven people sitting in formation.

The song began.

– Slowly falling asleep

Time, night

I don't want to escape

– It's quiet now

Song and dream

Forget everything, it's midnight here.

Your Midnight

The choreography unfolded.

The tone of modern dance and waltz stood out. It was an elegant and complex choreography with a lot of movements using the whole body to support each other.

The long cuffs swayed.

There were no repetitive movements that were easy to follow or memorize. It was a move solely aimed at making people watch with their mouths open.

The structural lines were held long under the chandelier lights.

– Even if the clock's second-hand runs and calls me

I can't pull it up again today

I'm here, your midnight

Your Midnight

The video changed the background from an old and luxurious entrance hall to a classy study in the rain, a huge dining table lined with rusty bird cages, and a bathroom full of red-scented candles.

Each time, their hair and clothes changed shape and color, and the background was naturally absorbed in an instant.

It was a crazy visual beauty.

And the background suddenly came to the bedroom where golden blue butterflies fly around.

The seemingly endless change of clothes, which was based on colorful suits, also came to an end.

They were now wearing classic lightweight shirts.

On the spine between their shoulders, she could see pulsating clockwork springs.

– *Spreading Midnight*

The distorted focus…

I'm shaking, I'm struggling with time

The choreography of the last chorus fully bloomed.

Butterflies gathered each time the formation changed and sat on the windmill like birds perching on the spinning wheels.

The shadows on the floor stretched, casting long butterfly wings.

– *Overflowing Midnight*

Torn down Shape

Torn and a new day comes

There were no significant cutscenes, acting, or overhanging narrative.

Consisting solely of choreography and proper close-up shots, the video swallowed up time in an instant.

It was a music video with a gorgeous and ecstatic visual beauty and a song that seemed to fit together.

– *I met you*

Midnight

And next

The lyrics ended like that. All sounds stopped for a moment.

The last accompaniment resumed faintly.

While the piano and contrabass were playing, a white hand appeared just like in the first scene. However, this time, the camera climbed up on the arm.

The owner of the white hand was Seon Ahyeon.

Getting out of the choreography formation, Seon Ahyeon headed to the longcase clock in one of the bedrooms.

Then he tore off the right lower wing of the blue butterfly exhibit hanging on the clock.

In the glass beneath the wing, diagonal cracks were revealed.

[00 : 01]

On the longcase clock that was captured from the front, an elegant cursive caption appeared, and the video ended.

'Whoo!'

It was great to see it again!

The graduate student couldn't control the corners of her mouth and turned to the last verse where a close-up of Moondae was captured.

The face of Park Moondae staring upward slightly with blue butterflies flying around his temples was the best.

And there was the finishing touch.

‘Choker on his neck!’

Although the material and atmosphere were completely different, this was better because it reminded her of the second team match of <Idol Inc.> when she first saw Park Moondae.

The graduate student already did it, but she screenshotted the scene one more time.

“Ah, this music video is really good! The song is just nice to listen to!”

It was her taste to enjoy enchanting visual beauty and easy-to-listen songs for 4 minutes without question marks popping up in her head.

And that point was revealed right away from the thumbnail.

Originally, Testar used epic and meaningful thumbnails such as hands, landscapes, and props since ‘Magical Boy’.

However, this time, they openly put a close-up of a member’s upper body on the thumbnail.

It was Kim Raebin.

“Mmm.”

It was a pity that it wasn’t Moondae. The grad student also had a strange feeling about Kim Raebin because the first fan she met had left a bad impression.

But the cut itself was an art.

‘…Raebin is handsome.’

The cut of soaked Kim Raebin with a corset choker on his neck and a blue butterfly under his chin was great.

And he was a perfect match for this song.

It was a very languid and extravagant concept, so Kim Raebin, who had a slightly decadent impression, suited it well.

The music video was also a worldview and a bombardment of sight and hearing.

'Ah, it changed over.'

While she was lost in her thoughts for a moment, the video that played again ended, and a related video was played next through automatic playback.

It was the first stage of 'Midnight, and Next' at the concert.

[Aaaagh!]

[Uaagh!]

She couldn't hear the song well because of the scream.

'Ah, right! Everyone was like this!'

She chuckled as she recalled the situation at the time.

She forgot about the link to the fancam video sent by her homma friend because she even edited the sound neatly.

According to her friend, the concept photo released right before this was even more upsetting because it didn't give a single hint.

‘Hm, now that I see this, it’s just a pretty picture! I look forward to it! I think it was like that.’

Right.

For a more dramatic first-stage impact, Testar and the company accepted Park Moondae’s opinion and took boring concept photos and teasers.

It was just a moderately good-looking cut using a suitable suit and mansion.

– I heard that Shamstar finally got out of their world concept

└It’s no fun

└But the kids are pretty, that’s all that matters

– Ah, something’s missing

– Are they taking a break this time? Since it’s a full-length album, there are a lot of things to work on and the condominiums overlap.

└The happiness circuit is strong. It must be hard to recycle.

– I’ve lost my initial commitment, I feel like I am going to gain weight soon

The graduate student didn’t know, but the stark reaction under the surface was this bad.

But the moment the concert came out, everything turned upside down.

Even Testar’s concert outfit seemed a bit excessive, they even came out with a butterfly model attached like a tailcoat and a real clockwork spring.

Because they poured in their capital, the costume didn't look awkward even if it was that excessive.

– Shamstar is serious about the concept.

– Corset choker and that shirt. Who gave that idea? Give them a reward.

-♡ I love Butterfly Boys so much♡

– The school worldview that sucked up all the sweet flavor is now out of date. Let's push for this.

– Fans' initial commitment is fully charged.

– As expected, boy idol is sexy.

After that, special photos with the concept of the music video intact were added exclusively for the album, and some of them were uploaded on Testar's SNS, making it perfect.

However, without knowing such elaborate calculations, the grad students were just happy.

'Okay, let's watch Moondae's fancam, too!'

The grad student excitedly put in the search term on WeTube and found Park Moondae's new music show fancam.

The hairstyle with only half the forehead exposed and the loose stage suit looked really good on him.

'Blonde is the best…!'

While watching the video happily, she suddenly opened the comment window.

Of course, she knew from experience that the top comments were plastered in English, but it was nice to find one or two comments in Korean.

When she saw the silly comments, she felt like adding something.

“Hmhmm~”

The grad student happily lowered the comment window and finally found a comment in Korean.

However… It was not the kind of comment she was thinking of.

– Park Moondae, fighting~ I like your strong and cool image

– Good luck, Moondae! I hope you don’t have a hard timeㅠㅠ

“…?”

She felt a sense of incongruity

The concept this time was a little sexy and based on coolness and elegance… It was as though each element paid attention to the artistry.

And Park Moondae was a genius idol who performed the concept properly, neither lacking nor being too much!

‘But instead of talking about the stage, why is this comment on top…?’

Of course, these were words with good intentions, so she didn’t feel bad.

But… just a little, her excitement cooled down.

“Mmm.”

The grad student just skipped the comment and shrugged it off. Fortunately, she soon found a silly comment that suited her and pressed the heart.

– Every time Moondae blinks, the world flickers. This is a total solar eclipse

'This is it!'

The grad student smiled and felt entertained.

The discomfort was quickly forgotten, but now she felt like she had a sneak peek of what her friend was worried about.

'They are more interested in being nice to Moondae than in Moondae himself… '

Of course, she wasn't saying that the majority of people were like that, but she wasn't happy that such an atmosphere had occurred.

'I want to hurry up and watch Moondae in the variety show.'

While waiting for the variety show, the grad student watched the video of the unit stage preparation from the last concert and the fancam of the unit stage during her breaks.

And the day <Saturday Party> aired.

From the first appearance of Park Moondae and Keun Sejin, she could hear the excitement.

"Gasp!"

Park Moondae and Keun Sejin… They were wearing pink fairy wings for toddlers.

"…?!"

The two of them started dancing to the music tune from the 80s.

[Dancing magic! Soaring Stock! Testar's two shining stars have come down to Earth!]

Of course, wearing suspenders, they looked cute and handsome.

But the pink fairy wings stole the viewer's attention.

There were the captions, too.

[It looks like they will fly to the sky any minute…]

[Fleeting dance!]

[Fairy or human?]

It was the DJ's new comment.

'Why… Why are they wearing something like that?'

The grad student looked at the screen in confusion and soon realized.

"Ah, butterfly!"

It seemed they were aware that this new song was secretly called 'Butterfly Boy' among fans!

'So cute!'

It was a big picture for a gag and publicity, but the fans were happy to see it anyway.

"Ahaha!!"

The grad student burst into laughter and turned up the volume.

And at the same time, Testar was doing the same.

* * *

“Ahahahaha!!”

“C-Cough”

Saying that they would monitor <Saturday Party>, the guys that were gathered in the living room burst into laughter,

‘I knew it would be like this.’

I was a bit embarrassed, but… Haven’t I gone through too many bizarre things to get my composure broken by this?

“That’s so funny.”

“Yes!”

When Cha Eugene answered, Bae Sejin collapsed next to him. Even that answer alone seemed to be funny.

‘…Let’s put up with it.’

I focused my eyes on the remote control.

…But when the scene of me and Keun Sejin dancing around the DJ booth came out, I couldn’t take it anymore.

The me on the screen shouted.

[Wow, the best MC ever!]

Click.

I pressed the mute button.

“Huh?”

“Hey, why~”

“Moondae, it’s fun! It’s all right!”

It’s not alright.

I looked at the screen with bitter eyes.

The second half of the shoot was really… something you could look forward to.

CHAPTER 139

As expected, the dance initiation ceremony, in which the two of us suddenly attacked the MC in reverse, didn't get cut off and came out well.

[The DJ blanked out due to pouring compliments]

[23 years of entertainment, a crushing defeat to the pink fairies who appeared for the first time]

It was mainly edited with a composition that caricatured the MC, but it still had a good impact.

[Are all rookies like this these days?]

[Scary… So scary!]

…I received CG with fluorescent wings and captions like this.

The members, who regained the sound after promising to 'not burst into laughter every time it appears', twitched their mouths and cleared their throats.

"Haha, hmm, you did a good job on the variety show."

"Excellent, great!"

"Hyung is a scary person. That's cool!"

"…Yeah, thank you."

Cha Eugene seemed to have creatively interpreted the caption's 'scary' as 'threateningly superior'.

Anyway, embarrassment aside, it was picked out well.

The reaction of the viewers who were checking in real time was also very good.

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋWhy do you guys do thatㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– DJ Choi is deadㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– What the heck are you doing

– I can hear the staff laughingㅋㅋㅋ

– What's with the wingsㅋㅋㅋ I must be crazy, I laugh so hardㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Wow, that's a great spirit.

– I think they would have grilled Vtic alive.

Just in time, the two VTICs appeared on the screen and performed a great dance.

10 seconds later, they couldn't beat the compliments and crawled around.

"…Hmm."

It was kind of funny, too.

'Vtic fans will be satisfied as well.'

As I gave a generous evaluation, the doppelganger team match began with a twist.

[Since you have the same body, you should be punished together~ You're a doppelganger! That's why it's called <One heart two bodies>!]

It was fun, but in the first half of this game, there was nothing more to be salvaged with the best cut.

I just played the game hard, so naturally, I only got a few cuts and a bewildered reaction at Vtic's self-destruction.

"Why didn't you have the wings?"

"It's dangerous, so we left it out."

"Aha!"

With this cool conversation, this week's <Saturday Party> monitoring was over.

"You two did a great job in the variety show."

"I-It was fun…!"

It was a generous evaluation, but it was a little too early to hear it when next week's episode hadn't even come out yet.

"Aigoo, thank you! Please watch the show again next week~"

"Haha, okay."

Ryu Chungwoo replied with a smile to Keun Sejin's quip. He couldn't imagine what he was going to see next week.

The Internet response was only moderate, with the fans having an expectation for the next week's episode.

Even among general viewers, thanks to our intense appearance, the majority of favorable impressions were 'The two Testar are fun~'.

Hmm, that was fine. It would work better if they didn't expect too much.

I got up in front of the sofa stretching.

'I'll have to wait another week.'

As long as there were no major problems, it would go smoothly.

But after that, the situation that I had been fearing finally happened.

The public opinion of me began to falter.

* * *

While Park Moondae waited for the next episode of <Saturday Party>, the Internet became noisy again.

This was because, as predicted by Park Moondae, the case of the person who exposed Choi Wongil's recording was not properly completed.

That person uploaded a post this time. It was a testimonial about Choi Wongil's notoriety in Idol Inc along with a staff certification.

– Heol, it was a staff

– They said the conversation was cut off because they pressed the recording button in between, not making a recording.

– Choi Wongil is scary. Didn't he threaten Moondae?ㅠ

– I guess I should skip that agency.

But it couldn't even last for a few days.

The identity of the person who exposed the recording was exposed due to metadata that couldn't be erased.

==========

[It's crazy, the person who exposed Choi Wongil is trash]

: (screenshot) See the original address of the image in the corner here? The end part seems like an ID, so I googled it and everything came up
ㅅㅂㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– They're a sick unemployed mythomaniac who looked down on people

Stealing staff ID cards, too.

(screenshot)

==========

And immediately, a notice of the company's progress on the complaint was posted.

It was widely believed that 'the person who exposed it had no acquaintance with Choi Wongil, and they accidentally listened to the conversation during their daily part-time job and recorded it'.

At the same time, Choi Wongil's agency posted clarifications anonymously in each community and began to inform the identity of the exposer as provocatively as possible.

[The person who spread Choi Wongil's rumors = Famous for looking down on other people]

[The one who exposed Choi Wongil's recording, more terrible than you can imagine]

After the work was completed, public opinion finally began to show sympathy for Choi Wongil.

– I feel sorry for Choi Wongil, I'm so disgusted;

– It's really scary. It's been a while since Idol Inc ended but the kids are still struggling because of the evil editingㅠㅠ

– Listening to the recording now, number 1 is so sad… He must have gone through a lot.

Naturally, as the attention of public opinion shifted, the sympathy and high evaluation toward Park Moondae faded.

And there were people waiting for this moment.

==========

[They're divided over Park Moondae and Choi Wongil]

: This is Idol Inc's behind-the-scenes video that was uploaded after the show ended (screenshot)

During the first team match, Park Moondae did the bridge that was originally Choi Wongil's part. Park Moondae glanced at Choi Wongil while saying that he would arrange this part alone.

By the way, he rearranged this part into a super high-pitched tone by himself and won the prize

(screenshot of Choi Wongil's flustered face)

‘Park Moondae must be Choi Wongil’s enemy’ vs. ‘It’s just my speculation and reason’

What do you think?

==========

– The bullshit starts again

– Why are you posting this now? To pick a fight?

└Do I have to pick the right timing to post while looking at the fans?

– Where are the opinions divided ㅋㅋㅋㅋ You want to divide us

Most of the comments were mainly stopping the uploader from saying things that didn’t even work, but there were also a lot of haters trying to ride the flow.

– Oh, Park Moondae is shadier than I thought…

– I thought everyone knew he was a fox pretending to be a bear ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– He’s really good at building his image. Honestly, I think Choi Wongil’s clarification this time was calculated as well.

└Right, it feels shady

└Did he grow up not being loved? He has that unique vibe…

– Park Moodae’s fans said that it wasn’t right for Choi Wongil to pick a fight… Honestly, everything was possible

└I thought of this too ㅋㅋㅋ

– What kind of nonsense is this? Choi Wongil said he would do the chorus, so he changed it

└Do you want to blame Choi Wongil again?

Of course, this article was deleted shortly after it was reported and refuted. However, the fans couldn't help but feel an unpleasant aftertaste.

Even after that, articles maliciously criticizing Park Moondae's past activities appeared out of nowhere in popular articles and then disappeared after a fight, repeatedly.

Their intended response was this.

[They made a fuss about Park Moondae's personality, but he's not like that at all. It's disgusting.]

Due to Park Moondae's quick response and Testar's star quality, such a headwind did not occur, but those few days were precarious.

The fans went through each day with tension.

It was at this timing that the second <Saturday Party> starring Park Moondae began to air.

'Please get only one thing.'

'Please, It's fine if it's boring as long as nothing happens.'

With those two thoughts intersecting, the second episode of <Saturday Party>'s 'Different Hearts' began to air.

[Wow~ there's no end!]

[Why are you all so good??]

It was nice to see the idols and actors working hard at the game fiercely.

The image of Keun Sejin, who took care of the actor returning after receiving a penalty, was also gently highlighted, as he said, 'We have already become best friends'.

The strange feeling started from the next game.

[This game is~ 'Stay Still'! The one who is not shaken by any situation and stays still for a long time succeeds!]

It was a game in which the team who held out the longest with a mouth full of water won.

And Park Moondae survived alone at the table that had become a mess due to the water cannons.

[…]

[No, Moondae-ssi, you are sober, right?!]

[Is this possible?]

Even if the staff suddenly shouted and performed a sexy dance, even if a monkey jumped out of the DJ booth, and an elephant rider juggled fireworks right in front of them, there was no reaction.

Park Moondae's face, staring into the air without any agitation, was the tranquility itself.

Because the elephant was nothing compared to the crazy situations that Park Moondae had experienced so far.

'Elephants exist in the real world.'

It was the sorrow of a fantasy novel's protagonist who was threatened by a status window.

And this caption was attached to Park Moondae's head for the first time in a while.

[Ca-lm]

Even the Tibetan fox CG made an appearance later.

The energy was even more synchronized because his two cheeks were slightly enlarged by the water inside.

[※Unprecedented situation]

[Now the production crew… The production team said they had run out of everything they had prepared!]

[Wow!!]

[It's amazing!]

It was a complete victory.

Park Moondae swallowed the water and bowed to the people around him. And the joy was returned to the viewers.

– ㅅㅂㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It's so funny

– Park Moondae is so consistent… Amazing.

– Nothing has changedㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It’s Tibetan fox’s victory

– So cuteㅠㅠㅋㅋㅋ

But it didn’t end there.

The MC started to move.

It was a great shot.

[Now, the person who gets the penalty this time is… Lee Sejin!]

[Yes??]

[Hey, that’s not right!]

[There are 3 people who got eliminated before Sejin, you know?]

[The critical moment! If you’re eliminated from that, the team’s power will collapse. Oh~ Look here! Sejin-ssi burst into laughter, and then the other two laughed together following him~]

The MC drove the situation with plausible words and tried to elicit a flustered response from Ken Sejin.

However, Keun Sejin smiled broadly.

[Ah, that’s great!]

[…!?]

[Sejin?]

[Is it fine to scribble on an idol’s face?]

[The team’s victory is more important than that!]

[?!]

Beyond the flustered captions, Keun Sejin stretched out his index finger at Park Moondae.

[Moondae!]

[…?]

[If you keep doing well, I will get a penalty no matter what!]

[…!!]

[Even if your team wins, you'll get a penalty! Think carefully!]

It was the madness to win.

[The spirit of sacrifice…?]

The captions were also flustered.

However, Park Moondae didn't get flustered.

[Great. I'll get the penalty.]

[!!!!]

[It's important for the team to win. I have to catch the doppelganger.]

[Guys, you guys are so immersed!!]

[You know this is a variety show, right?]

[Let's win and catch the fake.]

[Fakes don't matter! But you guys, this data will last forever?!]

[If we can’t catch the fake here, our team has no future.]

[Oh my God.]

They couldn’t communicate.

The two of them went out side by side and were doodled with cat whiskers and raccoons.

It was cute, but their eyes were burning.

[Real madness]

With burning captions, the next event took place.

[This round is… ‘Song Encyclopedia’! What year is it now? 1988~ You have to guess the name after hearing the song that was released this year!]

Having predicted and prepared for this game based on the pattern, Keun Sejin began to convey the correct answers.

[Correct!]

[Yay!]

The moment when Keun Sejin’s team’s victory was assured.

This time, Park Moondae began to self-destruct.

[Ah… Moondae-ssi, wrong!]

[…What are you doing, hubae-nim…?]

[I’m going to get the penalty by getting the most wrong answers.]

[!!!!]

Over the startled subtitles, Park Moondae clenched his fists.

[The more Lee Sejin does well, the more he will get the taste of penalty.]

[Wait.]

[The rule isn't supposed to be used like this, guys!]

It was a catastrophe.

In the end, as the game progressed, the involved cast members completely accepted the method of punishing people by shooting themselves with self-destruction.

Viewers were turned upside down.

– ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋWhat's this?ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– I think I'm going to throw up from laughing so much

– Why did it turn crazy like this?

– I'm going crazy

– A catastrophe brought by an over immersed rookieㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Although it was clearly a composition of self-sacrifice for the team's victory, thanks to being overly immersed in entertainment that had no reality, the strange situation was just funny.

[Hey, let's go.]

[Sigh.]

Even the established cast members were caught up in the atmosphere and sacrificed themselves. There was nothing funnier than the way they went to receive the penalty with a face that gave up everything.

And as a finishing touch, another incident occurred in the final game that decided the final match.

MallangDalkom Sohyun gave up the threat of self-destruction at the last minute.

[Sorry, Moondae-ssi! Youngrin unnie is afraid of heights! I don't think this is right!]

[!!!!]

The over-immersion ended up being betrayed like that.

Youngrin successfully raised the flag and gave her team a victory.

[So really… This is the party team!]

[Waaaaaa!!]

Park Moondae's dazed and forlorn expression was hilarious.

– He's burned white…

-ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅅㅂSo cute.

– No, don't get too immersed in this, you idiotㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– Ah reallyㅋㅋㅋ so funnyㅋㅋㅋ

– It's so cuteㅋㅋㅋHe's a rookie so he got crazyㅋㅋㅋ

– He was so serious about the broadcast during Idol Inc and he's like that in here, too ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

And the clip that focused on Testar from this episode instantly became a popular video as soon as it was uploaded on WeTube.

[(Saturday Party) 'Hit his doppelganger hard!' Testar's over immersion collection.zip | Legendary <Two Bodies> | SBC]

The anti-fans who were trying hard to build the image 'Park Moondae is a shady person who uses his head and pretends not to be' were crushed to pieces by waves of 'Over-immersed four-dimensional Tibetan Fox Moondae'.

* * *

'It's done.'

I turned off my smartphone with a complicated sigh.

It was a bit… embarrassing, but satisfying.

'I've got the right atmosphere.'

Asking Vtic to make more fuss on purpose was definitely worth it.

Because it made Testar's behavior look even more unusual. It was the effect of the reactions.

And with such a funny image firmly attached, it was unlikely to get shaken by trivial things for a while.

Then, something suddenly came to mind.

'…I can proceed comfortably.'

I thought it would be okay to slowly proceed with what I had planned from the start of this activity.

So, it was necessary to do some preliminary work first.

“Let’s clean up the settlement amount first.”

It was finally time to take a look at last year’s achievements.

CHAPTER 140

I accessed the bank application that I had installed in advance.

'It should have been deposited by now.'

I heard yesterday that the settlement money would come in.

In fact, the contract was signed with a quarterly settlement, but last year, the company was in a mess, so it was temporarily suspended under the condition that the legal interest rate was attached.

So now, in April, last year's settlement and this first quarter's settlement were deposited at once.

If I was an ordinary office worker, I could sue the company for this gap but no one was in a hurry, and there was a lot of contract period left, so it passed without much fuss.

But no one hated money.

Thanks to this, I wasn't the only one looking into the settlement immediately as soon as the schedule was over on Monday, April 22.

"Gasp!"

I heard a choked sound from the bed next to me. It was Bae Sejin.

'It must be a lot of money.'

I thought so. Our grades were so good, and we even had a concert.

‘Still, it doesn’t feel real.’

I pushed the main account of the app and checked the new account.

And I doubted my eyes.

[Korea General Deposit]

[1,146,193,520 won]

‘…1.1 billion?’

It was 1.1 billion?

An amount that couldn’t be eached even if I smuggled organs was showing up on the screen.

“…”

I was at a loss for words.

Is it possible to earn this much after working for 9 months?

It was true that I rolled around without being able to sleep and under a lot of pressure. And in the long run, it was also the accumulated amount of difficulties since <Idol Inc.>.

But if you could get 1.1 billion won, it was a scary business that left too much.

‘Even so, 1.1 billion… It’s beyond my imagination.’

I thought I should check the balance sheet. I checked the mail that was opened for company reception.

Perhaps the address was leaked somehow, strange e-mails were piled up like bombs, but after roughly filtering them, I was able to find the settlement e-mail.

I scanned it quickly.

"…Phew."

It was 1.1 billion, alright.

And I knew the cause.

'There's no trainee cost.'

This meant the company hadn't set the pre-investment costs. Thanks to this, the net income was settled as soon as the profit was generated.

Albums, events, advertisements, music sources, concerts…

In addition, the copyright fee was quite high due to our active participation in the production.

'Kim Raebin should have gotten more.'

Just then, screams were heard from the next room. It seemed Kim Raebin was on the phone.

Maybe he was surprised and called his family.

'What a mess.'

It was normal to make a fuss with this amount of money. It still didn't feel like my money.

"H-Have you seen it?"

Bae Sejin spoke with a red face. He must be talking about the settlement money.

"…Yes, just now."

"With this much money, I can buy a house in Seoul, right? I-If I take out a loan…"

It depended on what kind of house it was.

However, Bae Sejin seemed excited as the initial achievement of his plan to get a secure home was fast approaching.

But the calculation was wrong.

"That's the amount before taxes."

"Huh,… Huh?"

"The tax rate will be high because it's a huge amount of money, so don't think about spending it all, and be sure to consult with a tax attorney before filing your comprehensive income tax return in May."

"…R-Right."

Bae Sejin affirmed blankly, then sat back down on his bed.

It seemed he had returned to reality.

And I also came to my senses while advising Bae Sejin.

"I thought you would be familiar with settlement money."

"It's my first time receiving this much…"

Bae Sejin shoved his face into the hamster body pillow.

That, you have been putting it to good use before.

“W-What’s wrong…?”

Even Seon Ahyeon, who was washing up, heard the noises and poked his head out of the bathroom.

“Checking the settlement.”

“A-Aha.

Seon Ahyeon smiled as if he was relieved. He didn’t seem to be very curious about how much it was.

“Did your parents have been taking care of you?”

“Y-Yes! I-I get allowance…”

Considering that he gave a department store gift certificate as a birthday present last time, that allowance was probably quite a lot.

‘Come to think of it, I haven’t even used that gift card yet.’

As soon as the awards season ended, I prepared a concert and a new album, and immediately forgot about it because we started our activity right away.

‘It just so happens that tomorrow morning… hm, I don’t have a schedule.’

It was the only time I had free time during the day for the next two weeks, including weekends.

Let’s double-check first.

“We don’t have a schedule tomorrow afternoon, right?”

“Y-Yeah! That’s right, why do you ask…?”

“I’m going to go out for a bit.”

“…Shopping? Are you going to the bank?”

Bae Sejin interrupted. I left as soon as I received the payment, so I thought he would have guessed that.

I nodded.

“Yes, shopping.”

“…Then would you like to go out together? I have to go to the bank too.”

“Um… that’s a bit.”

“What?”

I rubbed the back of my neck.

“I’m thinking of going to dessert shops.”

“…?”

“One… Seven, about that much.”

“…??”

* * *

So the next day, Tuesday. I got to roam the city of Seoul leisurely by myself.

…Or so I thought.

“M-Moondae. Is it the blue sign over there?”

“I think you can get us off at the first alley on the right, driver.”

I found two tails sticking to me.

Seon Ahyeon and Kim Raebin were delighted and followed me.

– I-I wanted to go out too…!

– Dessert? It’s my sister’s birthday next week and it sounds like a really great opportunity to choose one of the presents.

…Well, they said that.

For your information, Bae Sejin came and was dropped off at the bank. It saved the taxi rental cost, so it was helpful

‘Now, I don’t have to worry about the taxi fare anymore.’

It was a bit strange because it had been so long since I hadn’t had to worry about money in my life.

And soon after, the taxi driver stopped the car at the first destination.

“Okay, we’ve arrived~”

“Thank you.”

As I got out of the car, the two people, who were shining brightly in the back seat, quickly followed.

“D-Doesn’t it look delicious?”

“I have high expectations.”

It didn’t seem like a common picture for three men wearing masks and hats to enter a professional dessert shop… Well, here we go.

‘There aren’t many people on the road.’

Probably because it was 9:30 on weekdays.

The two members and I entered the newly opened store as the first customers.

“Hello… Gasp.”

“Hello.”

And as soon as our eyes met, they saw through us. I’d felt it before, but now masks were really useless.

“Uhh, uh… Gasp, wow… I’m listening to the song so well, uh.”

“Thank you. Please wrap one for each type of dacquoise.”

“Y-Yes?”

“Please wrap all of them, one for each flavor.”

“A-Ah, yes!”

I’m sorry, I don’t have much time.

I exchanged handshakes and autographs for the packed dacquoise.

“Uh, oh my God.”

…But I’m glad you seem to enjoy it.

And I looked back at the two people who were standing in a daze.

“Aren’t you going to choose?”

“Ah!”

The other two also chose dacquoise and gave a handshake.

I went straight to the checkout counter.

“Please pay this together.”

“Ah, yes!”

Both of them freaked out.

“I-It’s fine!”

“If you sort it by the settlement amount, it’s only right for me to pay… No, I’m not trying to be condescending, I mean, it’s fine…”

I laughed.

“It’s okay. I am the one who asked to go out.”

“Hyung…”

“M-Moondae……”

If I had brought Cha Eugene or Keun Sejin, they would have shamelessly accepted it, but these two were sitting there impressed.

The two smiled as they were handed the packed dacquoise.

“I-I’ll eat this well!”

“Thank you.”

And as soon as he came out of the store, Kim Raebin realized something.

“Ah, I have to buy noona a birthday present.”

“I think it’s okay to choose it slowly. Because there are a lot of stores left.”

“Yes?”

The two of them blinked.

“That, d-didn’t you brought it here, b-because you already chose?”

“I thought you looked for a lot of candidates in case you didn’t like it…”

“Nope.”

I shook my head.

“I’m going to buy in all seven places.”

“…!!”

And I really did.

So, by noon, both of them were sitting in the cab moving limply.

I organized the boxes and put them under my feet.

All seven. All were purchased successfully. I had already tasted each one.

There was an unexpected event of hugging someone who came running and waving the album in the midst of it, but it went smoothly.

‘The last one was a bit close.’

The person who met my eyes at the cash register screamed loudly, so as soon as I received the macaron, I just said farewell and ran away like a thief.

“I-It’s over…?”

“Yeah. It’s over.”

“Phew…”

Seon Ahyeon melted down. He must be tired from meeting a lot of people.

I had told him to just go to the dorm in the mids of all that, but I didn’t know why the guy who didn’t eat sweets because he was taking care of himself kept following me.

‘Is it because of a sense of alienation?’

Due to Seon Ahyeon’s personality, he probably hated going alone after going around in a group.

Anyway, tagging along during the break… regardless of the efficiency, it was something I was thankful for.

“Are we going home now?”

“Yeah, let’s go.”

I took a taxi back to the dorm.

And instead of going up together to the dorm, I only left dessert.

“Tell the people in the dorm to share.”

“H-Huh?”

“I just remember something to do”

I sent the two guys home and got into a road taxi.

And I took a picture of the navigation again.

“Department store?”

“Yes.”

After finishing my business, I returned home about an hour later.

Ring-

When I opened the front door and went in, I met Cha Eugene’s eyes in the living room, eating dacquoise.

“…”

“Delicious! Thank you!”

“Well… Yes.”

He didn’t easily gain weight and liked sweets, so he could be considered the right person for this.

“Which one’s the best?”

“This one.”

It was strawberry macaron. I remembered the store name on the wrapper.

“Thank you for the sweets, Moondae.”

“It’s not a big deal.”

“You didn’t buy us a smoke screen because you have a girlfriend, right Moondae? I trust you~”

“Are you crazy?”

After greeting Ryu Chungwoo, I hit the back of the giggling Keun Sejin and went back to my room.

Behind Bae Sejin, who was reading a book in bed, I could see Seon Ahyeon scooping sponges at the desk.

“M-Moondae. You’ve finished your business?”

“Yes. And this.”

“Y-Yes?”

I held out what I had in my hand.

“It’s a little early, but… It’s a birthday present.”

“H-Huh!?”

Seon Ahyeon freaked out. Bae Sejin raised his upper body.

“It’s Seon Ahyeon’s birthday…?!”

“I-It’s not, though…?!”

Two of them being flustered next to each other looked almost like a skit.

“It’s in two weeks, but I don’t have time to go out until then, so I’m giving it now.”

“Ah…”

Bae Sejin was relieved and lay back.

Seon Ahyeon nodded vigorously.

“I-I see, thank you…!”

“Don’t mention it.”

…Let’s not tell him that I used the department store gift certificate he gave me to buy that gift.

“C-Can I open it?”

“Of course.”

Seon Ahyeon opened the package right away.

At the revealed coat, he stiffened.

“…! I-It’s too expensive…”

“No, it’s not.”

The guy who gave me the gift certificate said all sorts of things.

I put another shopping bag I bought at the department store under the bed. The size of the shopping bag was big, so it took some time.

‘…I think I picked well.’

I should have taken Seon Ahyeon with me, I regretted it briefly, but I had already bought it so it couldn’t be helped.

Bae Sejin glanced.

“What’s that?”

“A present.”

* * *

And on that Sunday, at the broadcasting station in the early morning where the last pre-recording of Testar’s music show was taking place.

Testar’s fans who arrived at the scene were given a large box one by one.

[Testar is singing]

[Midnight and Loviewer ♡]

“…??”

CHAPTER 141

The box was distributed when the fans left the pre-recording of the music show.

This allowed people to open the box on their way home.

The light purple box that had Testar's logo sticker on it seemed to be openly shouting.

'A return gift[1]I used the word 'return gift' but the Korean word's literal meaning is 'gifts that celebrities give to fans' for you!'

Naturally, the fans quickly noticed the situation.

'So that's why I didn't get a photocard when I entered…!'

Maybe this box also contained the photocards given to those who participated in the pre-recording.

Fans who had already received cream bread, coffee, and simple snacks opened the box with joy.

'It would be nice if there's dakgangjeong[2]sweet crispy Korean fried chicken *inside.'*

'Heavy… Is it a drink this time?'

However, what they saw in the box were 28 large macarons that were splendidly packed.

"…!!"

“Oh, my.”

Seeing four rows of seven macarons placed side by side had a powerful impact.

People freaked out on the subway, bus, or in cars.

Of course, there were many people who never bothered to buy 28 macarons at once in their lives.

‘There were 300 of us, but 28 for each person…?’

‘What’s going on?’

Some fans wondered whether there was any mistake in the quantity.

It wasn’t just a ready-made product, either.

When they picked up the macaron, the icing was in the shape of an animal’s feet.

‘Crazy, there’s a bird’s claws too!’

‘Is this particularly small one a hamster? Is it?’

One of them even had the shape of a deer’s hoof.

Fans tried to put down the box gently while stomping their feet, beating their bed sheets, and unable to control the corners of their mouths,

‘Let’s take a proof shot and leave it alone.’

‘I’m going to freeze it forever.’

But that wasn’t the end. There was something stuck inside the box cover.

It was one more small box.

‘No way.’

‘Another one?’

The fans tore the box off and turned it over.

Then its identity was revealed.

It was a well-packed luxury brand perfume.

It was not a sample size, but the original 50ml product.

‘Heol.’

‘Wait a minute.’

‘What kind of box is this? Did they give this to all of us?’

Beyond joy, some people began to feel confused.

Meanwhile, something came out again.

Thud.

The envelope that was stuck between the boxes fell off.

The envelope… It was quite thick.

At this point, some fans were starting to get scared.

‘What else is there?’

‘How far did they go??’

When they opened the envelope while swallowing their saliva, they found a letter that looked like a copy of a handwritten note.

==========

[To our dear Loviewer ♡]

: Thank you for coming to cheer us at today's last music show recording.

Actually, we got our settlement this time!

Thinking about what to give you, we prepared hard to give you a present that could commemorate this activity.

We were in a hurry to give it to you before the activity ended… Even if there's something lacking, we would appreciate it if you can look at it favorably ㅠㅠ♡

Ps. We each chose our favorite scent. One of those seven was given to you randomly!

==========

The letter ended with a scribble saying, 'I love you, Loviewer'.

This part… It looked really hand-written.

And, inside the envelope where the letter was taken out, there were a lot of printed photos.

They were photos of Testar that seemed to be taken at the dorm.

That's why the envelope was so thick…!

'Crazy!'

‘Crazy…! You crazy people!’

At this point, most of the fans who had came to the studio started screaming internally.

And on SNS, a fire started to break out.

* * *

– Crazy, Testar gave 28 macarons, a bottle of perfume, and photos Aaaah ugh, oh my gosh, guys, how can a group who hasn’t even passed one-year anniversary give return gifts like this? Uaaah (photo)

“What?”

Park Moondae’s homma tumbled off the sofa.

She couldn’t accept the reality that a big event had taken place in the last music show she couldn’t go to because she got food poisoning and was taken to the emergency room at night.

The timeline she checked with trembling hands… was plastered with the box’s proof shots.

*‘F*ck!’*

The homma banged her head on the sofa.

Of course, it wasn’t because she thought it was such a waste that she didn’t get free macarons and perfume.

She could see the evidence of her idol’s love for fans, but the fact that she didn’t receive it…!

It was so unfair…!

‘I could have gone!’

It was so unfair that this happened on the day she missed it, she felt like she was going crazy!

And she wasn’t the only one who felt like that.

– F*ck. My stomach is going to tear apart. I also want to eat the strawberry macarons that my kids gave me ㅠㅠ

– Did they give it because it was the last music show… I got my register cut right in front of me, but it’s so frustrating

– If you were going to get four sets, it was nice to share them in the last music show, but of course, the kids would like it too… Can I have the macaron with the hamster’s paw… ㅠㅠ

Because it was obvious that they cared so much, the atmosphere began to flow beyond envy to a slight sense of deprivation.

And this return gift had become quite a hot topic in the general entertainment community.

There were many people who were interested in it because it looked expensive.

==========

[Popular Music Testar’s return gift that looks expensive.jpg]

: (photo) (photo)

4 rows of macarons and brand perfume.

It is presumed to be handmade considering the signatures of the members on the macarons. The perfume is not just a collection, but a

mixture of several scents from the same brand.

==========

At first, most of the responses were saying that they envied the fans and that Testar was amazing, but soon people who wanted to analyze the situation appeared.

– This is a company pick, the style of the return gift suddenly changed… Considering the brand, it seems to be a commercial

– Heol, It was weird at first glance because the format was excessive ㅋㅋㅋ

– In the first place, there are many things that the return gift company does or pays half in the settlement, but it's too much, it feels strange ㅋㅋㅋ they should have reduced it

– The price range isn't something that a second-year idol can prepare ㅎㅎ still, it must have been nice for the fans, I am enviousㅠ I also want macarons and perfume for freeㅠ

– Are they shooting a perfume commercial? Idol perfume commercial is rare. Amazing.

Whether it was malicious or not, it was a series of misunderstandings.

However, before public opinion fell into a mess, letters confirming the return gifts were posted one after another.

– Our kids… I think they were excited that they got their first payment for the first time… (Photo of the letter)

From the mention of the settlement to the fact that they picked out and bought the perfume.

The letter was basically an affirmation that Testar had prepared the return gifts themselves.

Public opinion in the general community was sorted out along that line.

– These crazy people said they paid for it and bought it themselves.

– What is this? The mind-readers got it all wrong ㅋㅋ ugh

– It's not an advertisement, it looks like a cash head-butt, really ㅋㅋㅋㅋ I envy their wealth

– Is it hard to sign up for Testar's broadcast? I wonder what they will give for the next activity, so if they give something more expensive, I want to go too ㅋㅋㅋ

└Me, too ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

└Seriously?;; You went too far

– They must have received a lot of money, so they spent it like this

└Wouldn't it be rather strange if they sold albums like that and couldn't get this much? ㅋㅋㅋ

└Who asked?

└Why are you angry ㅠ Look at Testar's initial Chodong and release your anger♡ It's 830,000 (screenshot)

Some aggro was successfully repelled, and Testar left a decent impression with a heartwarming return gift.

But the fans didn't end there.

The people who connected the sightings of the members a few days ago finally appeared.

– Crazy, did you go on a dessert tour on Tuesday to choose this, guys?ㅠㅠㅠ

└Heol

└Heol, I think it's right?

└It's a speculation, but let's refrain from talking like it's an established fact…

└Check out the macaron photo. First of all, 'Xgnet Sweet' on the wrapper is one of the stores where AMoonRae's sightings appeared on Tuesday… (Photo of the circled logo)

└Uaah

– That store tour… It's not a break from the activity period… It's a preparation for the return gift?

Fans were rather shocked because the story was overly touching.

– Let's not overinterpret it too much or haters might come to curse on this

– It's so cute and heartwarming that they gave the fans something delicious just because they got paidㅠㅠ

However, a review post appeared on the SNS account of the store that made the macarons.

– Xgnet Sweet review has come out… (link)

– The kids were going to do it in time with the last week's music show… They wanted to put everything in, but they couldn't because it was already fully booked ㅠㅠ (Insta screenshot)

– And they kept saying that this place was really good, so the owner was really proud…

It was a confirmed kill.

In a tremendous situation where everything turned out to be true, fans were completely touched and emotional and they began to fill up the posts with crying emoticons…

– They must have prepared in a hurry as soon as they received the payment. My heart is beating so fast that it's going to explode ㄷㅏ…

– Even if I get offers from another fan club, I won't let you go. There's really only one genius idol Testar ㅠ

– They got paid for the first time… An idol that bought a lot of expensive food and packed a lot of things that fans like… I'll be with you forever.

– Alright. Now that you know the macaron store, you can order it and eat it. Guys, the taste of the return gift is thrilling.

The fans were deprived, rambling, and full of energy.

And they began to enjoy it by posting fierce reasoning posts about whose perfume was which member's taste.

In addition, Testar even released most of the photos that were on the return gift at this timing on SNS.

– Testar is a real legend…

– I ordered macarons and bought the perfume. Now, if I just print the photos, I will receive the return gift

It was a fun return gift time.

* * *

I pushed the screen with my thumb.

“Hmm.”

The photos were uploaded fine.

It was the result of moving with a similar behavior principle to the first fan signing event.

‘If there are more people who are upset, it’s worse than not doing it.’

It was right for information and content to go back to everyone.

After checking the post once, I continued to monitor the reaction in the music show’s waiting room.

‘…The atmosphere is nice.’

Spending all day preparing was worthwhile.

It would be a waste of money if you spent so much and the recipient of the gifts didn’t like it.

Fortunately, it seemed the money was spent properly.

‘It was a good choice to put the perfume randomly in one out of seven.’

Thanks to this, there were only three eyewitness accounts, but it didn’t feel awkward to put the gift under Testar’s name.

‘After all, I have to start as a group, not as an individual, so that there’s no room for trouble.’

It didn’t really matter if I was the one who paid.

‘In the first place, I have nowhere to spend my money for.’

I didn’t have any family or acquaintances.

I didn’t need living expenses or a house right away, and the settlement money was so high that it was funny to say anything like this.

So from the beginning, I was going to pay it all and put it under the group’s name. The company wanted that too.

However, a variable occurred.

As soon as he heard it, Ryu Chungwoo objected.

– Moondae, you can’t do that.

– Yes?

– You picked it out and bought it during your break time. Then it should be gifts from Moondae.

– No. I don’t mind anyway. The items were chosen by the members together.

– Moondae, even if you’re fine with it, the fans won’t.

-…!

– It’s a lie for someone who didn’t pay for anything to put their name on the gift. How sad would the fans be if they knew the truth?

–…

– Even if the fans don’t know, we’re not fine with it. Right?

– Yes!

– T-That’s right!

– Hey, hyung-nim, you’re really good at talking…

Ryu Chungwoo firmly made a decision.

– At least we should share the cost.

So, with the members’ enthusiastic support, everything was blown away.

I appreciated it, but… I wondered if this was necessary.

‘It’s not that I’m worried about the aftermath if my words leak, but it’s that ‘It doesn’t work because it’s not possible’…’

Well, come to think of it, when talking about my personality, I saw an aggro that seemed to be saying what it felt like to be unloved.

‘It was meant to be an insult to my family.’

But apart from that, ‘well-raised’ could be referring to a guy like Ryu Chungwoo.

‘He doesn’t wrinkle easily.’

The type that had good resilience and didn’t fall into other side roads.

Just in time, the person concerned spoke to me.

“Are you looking at the response to the gift?”

“Yes.”

“I saw it, too, and the fans liked it. Actually, I feel bad because you did everything… Thank you.”

“Well… I only paid the money.”

“You did all the preparation by yourself, what are you talking about!”

Ryu Chungwoo lightly tapped my shoulder playfully.

“But let’s prepare it together next time. You don’t have to handle everything by yourself. You work as a team, so you have to use your teammates.”

“…Right.”

It was a topic that I would have thought about if all the team members were not 6 years younger than me.

Ryu Chungwoo smiled and hit my back once.

I rubbed the back of my neck.

‘Well… They’re cooperative.’

In the end, more than sharing the cost, this fan gift was also carried out together at the last minute.

So the picture was better. We each chose our own perfume, and we discussed the macaron plan together.

I couldn’t deny that the result of collaborating with the guys sitting there and getting their makeup fixed was pretty good…

“As expected, there is also a lack of clues as to which members prefer which scent. I think it would be better to leave hints on SNS…”

“I want more macarons.”

“Is your desire for macarons more important than this agenda?”

“Hn.”

“I-If you order on the way back…”

“Let’s stop giving in to Eugene~ The kid will start rolling around.”

“No! I’m cool!”

Big words from someone who had a brush on his face.

For a moment, I felt like an idiot.

…Actually, I’d handled all the other gifts by myself.

…Yes, there were ‘other gifts’.

While I was buying Seon Ahyeon’s birthday present at the department store, I also lightly packed presents for the company staff.

‘If you feed them one by one, they’ll pay more attention when something happens.’

It wasn’t difficult, but it was good to do it in advance.

Of course, it wasn’t anything great. I just bought stuff that they could use in the office… It was expensive indoor luxury slippers.

But it would be better than getting eaten.

‘It’s the only time I can feed these people.’

I wasn’t going to do it continuously, it was a handshake.

It would be better if it was something that could be used continuously in a working environment… Then the effect would last a little longer.

‘It was a good expense in the right place.’

I recalled the remaining amount in my account.

Then… I also remembered my last money withdrawal.

‘…I also made some donations.’

It was put anonymously into the Child Welfare Foundation.

…Since I used the parents’ insurance money that ‘Park Moondae’ received, I thought I should do that much.

That was the end of this settlement spending.

‘Life is a mystery.’

I put my smartphone down, rubbing the back of my neck.

Right on time, I heard the signal.

“Guys, go on standby!”

The live broadcast of this activity’s last music show was waiting.

“Testar is going up!”

“Yes~”

The stage was pretty fun as always.

…And I didn't know about other situations, but it was quite reassuring to have these young guys up here.

'…A good team.'

What Ryu Chungwoo said lingered in my head.

I brushed off my unnecessary feelings and came downstairs.

And right when I was about to think of my next schedule, I made eye contact with the manager who came running from the other side.

'What?'

The manager raised his hands and shouted.

"Guys! You guys are on the Billboard chart!"

"…??"

"…?"

"Yes?"

What kind of nonsense are you talking about when we don't even get good grades?

- 1. I used the word 'return gift' but the Korean word's literal meaning is 'gifts that celebrities give to fans'

- 2. sweet crispy Korean fried chicken

CHAPTER 142

Although Testar was doing well in Korea, it was only within Korea.

Just looking at the number of views on WeTube right now, it was also lagging behind the groups that were in the top 50 on the music chart.

This meant that compared to other large agency groups, we were relatively less recognized overseas.

'But all of sudden, we're on Billboard.'

On the world album chart?

I thought it was realistic.

But it wasn't.

"Alternative Digital Song Sales Chart… is it?"

"Yes!"

I'd never heard of it before.

Everyone reflexively looked at Cha Eugene, who was a native.

Hmm, he also had an expression of hearing it for the first time.

"Oops! Wait."

The manager, who was supposed to explain, got a call from the company and ran out again.

‘How chaotic.’

As we headed back to the waiting room, we asked Cha Eugene a question.

“The chart mentioned before, do you know about it?”

“Alternative Songs Chart… I don’t.”

Except for Kim Raebin, everyone looked unsure.

“That… Alternate… What kind of chart is it…?

“There’s only Alternative Rock. I like that one!”

“Ah.”

It must be a kind of rock genre. The chart seemed to be referred by the genre.

‘So the digital sales attached at the end… Does it mean that it is a chart that purely measures the music sales?’

As soon as I found my smartphone in the waiting room, I checked what kind of chart it was.

…It was a sub-genre, sub-minor detailed chart that only showed up to 25th place.

‘It’s for paid members, too.’

Kim Raebin muttered next to me with a vague face.

“There is no alternative rock in the title track…”

I first checked the previous chart using the saved page of the last search engine.

“Oh, how about this?”

Keun Sejin stepped in and swiped the screen down.

“Hey.”

“Haha! You can tell just by looking at the album here…?”

As a result of skimming down, Testar’s album cover… It wasn’t there.

“…?”

Hey.

“This!”

At that moment, Cha Eugene’s hand intruded on my smartphone screen. Then he moved it around and picked up a song.

[<127 Section> Bonus book / TeSTAR]

“…!!”

“Heol.”

“Our game song!”

Right.

The song of <127 Section>, the game without dreams and hopes that we collaborated with when releasing our second album, had entered the charts.

I was automatically reminded of when I had to dress up as colleague characters who were massacred in Chapter 1.

“But it’s not our album, though?”.

As Keun Sejin said, the album cover was different.

I immediately found the song on Spatify.

‘…It’s a game OST album.’

The situation was cleared up only after we heard the news on the way to the car from the manager who had returned.

“Global launch of the game?”

“Yeah! But it must have gone very well. They said it was a mess!”

<127 Section> had a global launch this time, mainly in the UK and US, and it was a hit.

The manager chuckled.

“So they released an OST album, and your song is on the charts there! Hey, isn’t it because the song is good?”

“Right?”

“T-That’s great…!”

The members who roughly grasped the situation laughed and relaxed.

Because it was good news.

‘That’s why the news came on Sunday out of the blue.’

The Billboard chart would have been updated on Wednesday.

Technically, it was the result of the game's performance, not Testar's.

Whether it was the agency or the fans, it wasn't a big and urgent matter, so it must have taken a few days for the news to reach the manager.

'Must be nice for T1.'

They made a big hit with the small game company they acquired. Of course, the capital would have been mercilessly poured in.

Anyway, it was good for us that the OST did well. It was a song that was connected to the album a lot.

'Other than the verses, everything was in English, is that why it worked?'

It didn't show any signs of appearing on the main chart and only appeared in the lower ranks of the minor chart, but it was still good news.

I shrugged my shoulders and put on my neck pillow, and suddenly I felt strange.

'Somehow, the game OST made it to the chart…?'

I thought it was possible because it was a minor chart, but it wasn't even a movie OST, is it possible to do this with a game OST? Of a mobile game that just launched?

In addition, I wasn't even sure what criteria it had that made it classified as an alternative rock. I thought it was just K-pop that borrowed only rock elements.

'It's a bit strange.'

I needed to check what the heck happened.

I went around game communities on my smartphone for the first time in a long time.

And I figured it out.

'Testar comeback trailer was used as the game advertisement again.'

<127 Section> seemed to have carried out advertisements on WeTube or billboards overseas in line with the global launch, and it seemed our trailer video was actively used here.

'The quality was so good.'

It was like a cinematic trailer.

The country would have recycled it, too.

Anyway, it seemed the British and American foreigners who saw the advertisement thought that Testar in the trailer was just commercial actors playing characters in the game.

'Because we didn't dance, we didn't sing, we just acted.'

If you were a game enthusiast who was not interested in K-pop, it was understandable you would think like that.

We were not as well-known overseas as VTIC.

Anyway, since the response to the trailer commercial was good… the game company took a step further.

In the global version of the game, a part of the trailer was even inserted on the screen waiting for additional data to be downloaded within the app.

Thanks to this, overseas users seemed to have naturally tasted the spiciness of the experience of ‘those who seem to be important are somehow being massacred as soon as chapter 1 is over’.

And it was said that it was a trend among game streamers to upload videos of being shocked after playing Chapter 1.

I searched for it and found videos with hundreds or even millions of views.

[Never play 127 Section… NEVER!]

[MY FIRST TIME PLAYING 127 SECTION. (I hate it)]

The thumbnails were foreigners with headsets on, crying, shouting, or popping out their eyes.

‘It’s really a mess.’

Anyway, based on its popularity, <127 Section> had received great reviews for its story performance and UI, and was doing quite well in the UK and US… That was the summary.

‘I thought with that kind of game UI and visuals, it would be like that.’

It seemed to be compared to some famous indie games that were recognized for their workmanship and worldview. The topic of GOTY[1]I looked it up and GOTY is apparently an acronym of the Game of the Year was already mentioned.

However, unlike the booming global market, the domestic game community was in a mess with this.

Once you searched on an anonymous site…

"…Hmm."

This… wasn't going to work. It was so bad that Seon Ahyeon or Bae Sejin would faint if they saw it.

'It's a bit creepy.'

So I looked for a community that was less energetic but very mild.

There were traces of controversy in some posts on the bulletin board with suggestions to the production team.

==========

[Let's stop using idols as promotion]

: Let's say there's nothing we can do about advertising. That's how it is these days.

But when the game keeps reminding you of the real celebrities, it's a different case. I hope it doesn't happen anymore.

I thought it would be okay because all the collab characters died in the first chapter, but there is a significant nuance that they would come back again.

Recently, the image of idols has been erased, so I tried to only see them as characters in games, but the idols appeared again in global advertisements.

It's fine if you don't know the idol well, but that's not the case with us.

I'm worried that they're going to do another stupid thing again after seeing the success of the global version.

Please, end it with the launching advertisement.

(I feel sorry for the idols.)

==========

– That's right, I hope they enjoy it in the beginning and don't bring it back when it's over

– I thought it was because they had to promote it at the launch, but I'm a bit worried now. The domestic update period is getting longer… Abandoned Factory, can't you keep it together?

– First of all, this isn't some kind of otaku game. When T-One took over, they made a lot of efforts to grow

└Male idols attract otaku, though…?

└It was meant to be a female-oriented otaku game

└Are you crazy? I hate it too

– I like it ㅠㅠ Wasn't the trailer cool?

– I like the trailer, too. Testar is fine, but they seem to be overreacting… There's no talk about a new collaboration.

└You have to act like this from now on so that they notice and won't let it happen. Let's get the mood

– What's this, why do yous switch up? Weren't they originally Godstar

└It's been a month since it ended, when did we talk about it? ㅋㅋ

└There were a lot of idol fans back then ㅎㅎ

└This sounds a bit malicious. At that time, it was just launching and everyone was so excited. The idols also promoted a lot of things

through collaboration.

– I think it's good that the global launch was advertised using that video, but it's disgusting because the fanart shows the idols. It's bearable. Just don't do it again.

"Mmm."

After looking at a few more articles and the flow of popular articles, I understood roughly.

'It cooled down.'

To put it bluntly, the interest was gone.

At first, capital and awareness were invested into the new game of a game company that might go bankrupt, so they showed favorability. Because it urgently needed to be a hit.

'They must have been heated up because the results were really good.'

Besides, the shock from having the initial colleagues killed must have made them more excited.

Since there were many Testar's fans that had flown in through Testar's promotion, the atmosphere must have proceeded like that to some extent.

But the characters were already dead and left. Naturally, Testar's fans didn't feel the incentive to continue, so they must have dropped it in no time.

In this way, the story of the massacre of the initial colleagues became public, and the proportion of people who flowed into the 'exciting mobile game' increased, and the normal flow was set again.

‘That’s why they’re not interested in the idols.’

It meant they didn’t want to have interesting and disparate guys in their favorite game content.

In addition, since the reaction to the initial colleagues at the game company was so intense, it seemed they continued to sprinkle content about the initial colleagues even in the updated content.

However, with Testar’s advertisement appearing in this global version as well, it was understandable that they would be worried about having another collaboration.

‘Then there’s only one way.’

Do not get tied up with them. I turned off my smartphone and sorted it all out.

Because I saw the group’s name on the billboard out of the blue, let’s end it with something fun.

And sure enough, it wasn’t long before a subtle inquiry came in from the company.

“Guys, by any chance, about the game collaboration…”

“No, I don’t think so.”

“We have to prepare for the next album~”

“…?? Guys?”

The manager was taken aback by the neat refusal.

‘I knew this would happen, so I gathered the kids together and briefed them.’

– T-The collaboration was fun…

– Haha, so you want to leave after the applause~

Some of them were a little disappointed, but everyone agreed anyway. Also, the fact that doing it would only make them tired seemed to have struck a chord in their hearts.

From <Idol Inc.> to the controversy over the Rookie of the Year award, it was tiring to become a controversial topic on the Internet.

So, for the first time since the group's decision, a project refusal occurred.

'Have I been too obedient?'

The company tried to persuade us a few times, but the group's right to speak had become stronger due to Testar's recent performance, so it was safely dispelled.

And one day while preparing for the new album and the festival schedule in May.

This time a different topic came out.

"Perform in America?"

"Yes! And it's a popular program these days! It's a little small and mainly on WeTube, but the viewer base is also certain…"

The company employee talked excitedly, then he slightly cleared his throat.

'…Are you trying to read the room?'

I had a bad feeling.

“But… Um, they want you to sing the game collaboration song?”

Ah, as expected.

- 1. I looked it up and GOTY is apparently an acronym of the Game of the Year

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For now, I asked the company staff to give us some time to talk amongst ourselves.

And the discussion began.

“What do you think?”

“I want to go to America!”

“Alright. I take it Eugene is in favor of it and the hyungs will discuss it more.”

“Yeah!”

When Cha Eugene was about to be excluded from the discussion with Ryu Chungwoo’s gentle words, Keun Sejin intervened.

“Wait a minute~ Eugene, have you heard of this show?”

“<Nerdy Andy Show>? No!”

This was the name of the show that we were requested to appear on. <Nerdy Andy Show>. And it seemed Cha Eugene really didn’t know this name.

“M-Maybe Eugene doesn’t know much about it because it’s new…?”

“That’s right. He said it’s on the rise right?”

The members talked amongst each other. I took out my smartphone.

“Moondaemoondae, are you going to look it up?”

“Hn.”

“Oh~ Let’s see.”

Anyone who saw this would think he was a guy who didn’t carry a smartphone in his pocket.

Anyway, perhaps they were lazy to search, I proceeded with the members sneakily looking at my smartphone screen.

As a result of a simple search using a translation program, the identity of the show was revealed.

“Oh, it’s their page.”

Of course, it wasn’t a famous American ground wave talk show.

But is it a small program that is completely marginalized? It’s not that either.

“Oh, that’s amazing.”

“It feels very distinctive.”

It was a pleasant broadcast in the form of a parody of a famous talk show.

And the content was… It was the subculture, so to speak.

It seemed to focus on games, comics, and superhero movies, but like the company staff said, the number of views on YouTube was quite high.

“Eugene, would you like to see this? Is it fun?”

“What is it?”

Cha Eugene poked his head into my smartphone screen where a talk show clip was playing.

Then, after looking at the screen for a moment, he snorted.

“…?”

Did this guy catch a problem?

“W-Wouldn’t it be fun…?”

“I don’t know. I don’t watch things like this. So nerdy.”

“H-Huh?”

…It just didn’t suit his taste.

Cha Eugene pouted.

Keun Sejin asked with a mischievous face.

“But you have to show up there if you want to go to America~ You have to come out and sing the game song!”

“It’s fine to show up there. I don’t watch it.”

It was a very professional attitude.

‘The question is, are we going to show up there?’

Looking at it, it was somewhat popular and it looked like a good program.

But I didn’t know if I wanted this to be our first stage in the US.

‘I don’t want to get involved with the game anymore.’

In the long run, the risks were significant.

Because Testar was a K-pop group and would make a K-pop album.

But even if we went there and did well, we could only come out with the image of the game character’s avatar.

Then, when we went abroad with a real Testar album later, there would be a huge gap from the first impression.

There was a good chance that it would come back as ridicule or betrayal.

‘If you don’t have much intention to enter the UK and US zone, it’s a good choice for media play… ’

It was an American program anyway, so it wouldn’t be bad for an article.

‘It will help to remove the domestic-use image.’

It was a smoke screen saying, ‘We are also great at going global’.

In this case, I shouldn’t be too concerned with public opinion from the game community.

Even if people said that we were using the game for media play, it would quickly subside as long as we didn’t make new collaborations.

But the members didn’t seem to think this way.

They just took it as a career opportunity.

“Shall we? It’s a rare opportunity.”

"…It doesn't matter to me."

"I also think it's a suggestion worth challenging. I hope we can play our song even if it's the game collaboration song."

It was a very progressive and rookie-like attitude. Hmm.

Surprisingly, Seon Ahyeon brought up a concerning issue here.

"W-Will it be all right? M-Moondae back then… said it's not good to collaborate again… Is this… going to be okay?"

The last question was what I had been wondering myself.

Keun Sejin also stepped in. However, this guy was also in favor of it.

"Hey~ I'm not asking for a new collaboration, wouldn't it be fine to have the stage? We'll leave a good impression if we do it well~"

He must be aware of the importance of first impressions, but it seemed his ambition to enter the US had overcome the risk.

'You're saying we should take care of our popularity first.'

To make matters worse, Seon Ahyeon nodded with his eyes shining.

"S-Should we? I-I hope we can have a great stage…!"

I guessed he wanted to do it.

And the others began to join in, forming an atmosphere filled with motivation.

…It couldn't be helped. I nodded my head.

"…Alright, I like it, too."

“Ooh!”

“However, I want to show the group as much as possible.”

“The group?”

“Yeah.”

They must be wondering about how loose the term was, but after the explanation, everyone was convinced.

“Great!”

“Hmm~ We have to prepare well.”

“I’m glad I have some free time in my recent schedule.”

The group discussion ended in a jovial mood.

And the company staff I met again had opinions similar to what I said earlier.

But mine was slightly more specific.

“First of all… I hope we can sing one of our title tracks.”

“Ah~ Ah! Of course. We will definitely discuss that!”

“Yes, thank you. For the stage, the program only requests the selection of the songs, is it correct that we prepare the rest?”

“Yes. that’s right. If there is a concept or setting you want to do, I will try to match it as much as possible. As much as the time permits!”

“That’s great.”

Time, it would be fine. I smirked.

“I want a live band performance.”

“Ah! That’s great.”

“And there’s no need for costumes.”

“…? Yes?”

What the hell are you talking about? I guessed it was time for me to explain it once more.

* * *

The news of Testar’s appearance on an American program made it to the entertainment news main page at least once.

If the reaction wasn’t good after appearing, it would be difficult to play with the press, so as soon as the casting came in, the agency seized the opportunity.

The news quickly came to the fans who were enjoying Testar’s May university festival and Seon Ahyeon’s surprise birthday party video.

– Heol, going to the US?

– It’s time to talk about overseas, but I thought they’d start with Japan… As expected, the population targeting Testar is different.

– I can finally see Cha Eugene speaking English as much as I want. Callie Boy’s cheerful sexy accentㅠㅠ

– You have to take annual leave to see it live. Okay, I’m going to get food poisoning that day.

Rather than worrying about the neglect of domestic activities due to overseas tours, the atmosphere of ‘the world needs to know about such a great idol’ was overwhelming.

Because Testar had so many fans in Korea.

However, after the exact contents of the program and the casting process were revealed, it cooled down slightly.

– Ah they will sing the game collaboration song… No wonder the show felt a bit like that ㅋㅋ

– It’s the first time K-pop appears on that program. This achievement is meaningful enough

– I heard that our kids gave a lot of opinions on the game collaboration, so it’s nice to see it come to fruition.

– I think this one will work better than the title track. I heard the collaboration song was on Billboard (screenshot)

– But I’m not going to let you go if the gaming bastards go crazy again. They’re geniuses, so what’s the point of making the collaboration song into a god song? ㅎ

The last one was words that Kim Raebin’s solo fan pressed into her private account one letter at a time with anger.

*‘These f*cking bastards really piss me off!’*

She slammed the keyboard.

Because she was reminded of a dog fight with a malicious game user who was talking nonsense.

“When it was launched, they praised them as Godstar, but now they’re cutting off tails because the game becomes so popular!”

The fact that the situation had changed and the user base had changed a lot since then didn’t mean anything in front of Kim Raebin’s angry fan.

‘I wish they would get fizzled out. Ha!!’

She just wanted this game to quit!

In fact, Testar’s success abroad was far from advantageous.

‘If it goes well with this opportunity, they won’t be able to come out on music shows because they will be on tour. Either way, it’s not good for me!’

…But like this, on the day of Testa’s appearance on <Nerdy Andy Show>, she was also waiting to watch it live.

She even sat down in front of her desktop because smartphone screens were too small and had too many errors.

‘Sigh… ’

Reality check dominated her shoulders.

She couldn’t help it. Kim Raebin and Park Moondae were held hostage by such a trivial program…

“Heol, are you seeing them again?”

“Hn, go away.”

“Hn, you.”

“If you call me you more time, I will really look for you.”

She cursed at her younger brother with her hands and then ignored him. But her younger brother glanced at her computer screen.

“Is this the one? Singing a game song in the US? Are they going to come out in costumes?”

“Hey, go away.”

“Oh my God~ Argh! Ugh!”

After being mercilessly slapped on the back, her younger brother ran back to the sofa.

Because <127 Section> did so well, her brother also played the game, so he knew the news.

‘Are you already crossing the line? I’m getting angrier.’

Kim Raebin’s solo fan gritted her teeth and stared at the computer screen.

Fortunately, the program began shortly after.

[Welcome to the Show!]

[This is… nerdy!]

[Oh, I mean, Andy~]

“What are you saying?”

American B-class CG and subtitles flew around.

And English poured out of the speaker for a while. The interim advertisement that showed up every few minutes was a bonus.

In summary, it wasn't fun.

She could only recognize a few superhero movie characters.

'What are you doing… '

Kim Raebin's solo fan felt deep regret, saying that she should have finished her assignment and watched the edited version later.

Still, she watched it because it would be a waste, but fortunately, a preview of Testar appeared.

To be exact… It was a preview of <127 Section> OST performance.

*'F*ck…!'*

Isn't that just promoting the game?

She stomped her foot with a feeling of resentment. The commercial soon ended with the younger brother ignoring king kong's nonsense whining.

And the stage was illuminated.

"…!"

In the spot where Testar would come out… There was a whole band.

'Looks like they're going to do a band live.'

She focused on the screen for now.

Soon after, Testar came up to the stage.

But they… were in casual clothes.

“Huh…?”

No, just in casual clothes, they looked neat. However, it wasn’t conceptual like their usual idol stage outfits.

“Huh? They’re not wearing costumes?”

As her younger brother said, they didn’t even the game character’s outfit or hairstyle.

It was just natural Testar. They looked like they would show up on a reality show.

Cha Eugene smiled and grabbed the standing microphone.

– *What makes people live?*

CHOICE!

And with the band’s live performance, the stage of the trailer song began.

DOOOM DOOOM DOOOM DOOOM ZZZZ-ING!

– *I’m gonna survive.*

Like you did before

Park Moondae coolly entered the high-pitched intro.

Testar sang with each holding their own standing microphone.

“…!”

The music… It was nice to listen to.

Her younger brother shrugged.

“He’s good at singing.”

Testar was originally good at singing live.

However, it was the first time that they had a performance where she could just listen to the song without any other elements.

In fact, most of the fans who were watching the program now had assumed that Testar would somehow put directing or choreography on the stage.

But there was no such thing.

It was just a neat and cool stage where you could enjoy the song.

They were good at using facial expressions and their gestures weren’t awkward, so they led the stage all the way only with that.

– *Choose your way*

Choose your side

She felt confident.

– *Survive!*

Testar brilliantly performed the game collaboration song with the image of a standard singer, not a character performer.

The siblings opened their mouths to the applause and cheers on the screen.

“Wow…”

“Oh~, I acknowledge it.”

Instead of answering, ‘Who do you think you are to acknowledge them?’, she tapped the desk in excitement.

‘Anyway, the performance was really good!’

They drew the line perfectly.

It was shouting, ‘We are not part of the game, we are the <singers> who made the OST for this game!’.

And because they had enough talent as a singer, it worked brilliantly and seemed natural.

[Wow~ That’s awesome!]

This composition was also revealed in the small talk after the first stage.

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Testar came down from the stage and sat down on the talk show's guest sofa.

But the person holding the microphone… was Cha Eugene.

'Is that okay??'

Even though she knew that Cha Eugene was the most fluent in English, she naturally began to worry.

But Cha Eugene was skillful.

[Welcome! What was your first impression of my show?]

[Hmm, it's full of color, cheerful, and has a really nice impression~ I like your yellow tie. It's 127 Section mark!]

[Oh, thank you! This is the first official product that was sold on May 11th on 127 Section's official site. I bought it with difficulty, but I wear this for the first time for this special occasion.]

Her younger brother teased her.

"Do you understand them?"

She didn't. She was just listening.

But the atmosphere was good.

'Cha Eugene, speaking English makes his atmosphere different.'

He looked much more relaxed and mature.

On the screen, the short small talk was coming to an end.

[Right, you really look like a Californian! I understand now. You seem to be the type who like surfing, am I right?]

[Haha, is there anyone in San Diego who doesn't?]

[Yeah… In that case, hmm, maybe you don't really care about stuff like this. Yep.]

The host deliberately shrank and looked around. Laughter erupted from the audience.

[No, no, this is a new and fun experience. And 127 Section is a fun game!]

[You're so kind~ All right, so let's talk about your role in the game.]

Then, Park Moondae, who was sitting next to him, immediately picked up the microphone.

[Actually, we're singers, and most of us have no experience in acting. It was a short time, but playing a game character in the music video was fun and new.]

Neat English flowed smoothly.

"Heol?"

Kim Raebin's solo fan… No, the college student who was also a fan of Park Moondae almost shook the monitor.

"Wow, he's f*cking good at English?"

“He is!!!”

Unlike the college student who was excited about his unexpected English skills, Park Moondae on the screen calmly continued the conversation.

[Oh, so you’re not the one who inspired the creation of those colleagues?]

[We got inspired by them and made a song. Mainly, this guy. His name is Kim Raebin. You can call him Raebin.]

[Oh~… Hello, Raebin? You really look like a composer! The eyes of a musician!]

[Hello.]

Kim Raebin on the screen awkwardly greeted the host.

‘He’s taking care of Raebin.’

She didn’t know the detailed context, but that much was obvious just by listening to the video and words. The college student watched the scene with satisfaction.

[What part of the characters inspired you? Whoa! I didn’t say anything bad, it’s just a good question! Someone, please tell him!]

[Oh, that guy has a strong impression, right? But if you look into your eyes, you would know he has a very gentle soul!]

[It’s still scary!]

Becoming close with the host who was immersed in the nerd concept, Cha Eugene made excuses for Kim Raebin’s eyes, then Kim Raebin’s words were interpreted through Seon Ahyeon.

[Their narratives made a lot of influence… It was a tragedy, but it captured the beauty and intensity of the characters' goodwill… I tried to save that feeling.]

It was stained with French accents.

'He seems different when he speaks a foreign language, too.'

Just like in his recent public appearances, Seon Ahyeon hardly stuttered even while speaking a foreign language. The slightest hesitation could be interpreted as shyness.

[That's right! That's how I felt when I watched the trailer after finishing Chapter 1! Oh, now I see your soul, Raebin!]

[Hahaha!]

Kim Raebin tilted his face with a blank face, probably not understanding the situation well.

"Ah, cute!"

"That's cute? He looks like he's going to tear apart some sh*t."

"Shut up."

The college student focused on the screen, ignoring her younger brother.

[Then, is there any plan for a new OST for 127 Section?]

Originally, this question was about the 'plan for the reappearance of the colleague characters', but it was modified following Testar's previous answer.

Park Moondae calmly gave an answer he had prepared in advance.

[We had a lot of fun working on the first song, but even if a new OST comes out, I don't think it will come from us.]

[Why?!]

Cha Eugene abruptly intervened.

[Because I'm curious about what kind of OST other artists will compose! You feel the same, right?]

With that positive encouragement, the audience responded reflexively.

[Yes, yes, of course. It's a pity, though! Because 'Bonus book' is a really good song.]

[Thank you.]

[You know what? You know it, hyung-ssi! You have great taste!]

[Me? Hahaha, that's right!]

The host laughed at Cha Eugene's praise and the talk of the game ended like that.

A few words of self-introduction and greeting were exchanged, then they reached the closing phase.

[The performance I saw earlier was really cool, but did you prepare another performance?]

[Yes. I thought it would be nice to show you a piece of music we usually do.]

[Good, that's great! Then, please. Andrew band~]

As the band made a get-ready sound, Testar members got up from the sofa laughing.

Then they started taking off their shoes.

[Oh~]

“Huh?”

“Hey, didn’t they get shorter?”

The college student couldn’t even afford to hit her younger brother who was babbling nonsense.

Meanwhile, Testar on the screen took off their cardigans or jackets and modestly left them on the sofa. The staff came out and quickly cleared out the sofa.

Then, the outfit was unified into a barefoot figure wearing jeans and a white short-sleeved T-shirt.

Whoop!

In response to the unexpected full-scale preparation, the sound of reactions from the audience could be heard.

As if to respond to that, Testar moved while holding the microphone and formed the choreography’s formation.

The lights went out.

Uuuu- Uu- Uuuu-

A slow, melancholy piano climbed above the sound of the band, which was rattling from the touch of the transmission.

And movements close to modern dance began to unfold.

– *Slowly falling asleep*

Time to night

I don't want to escape

Modern dance choreography unfolded in simple clothes, jazz sounds, foreign languages, and live band sounds.

Everything gave synergy, and Testar's stage looked more artistic than conceptual.

Even the elements that were unfamiliar or repulsive in this place were buried in it, so that it was accepted as 'high quality'.

In addition, the strengths of the K-pop genre, which polished the joy of watching and listening with the utmost care, were certain. Especially for a group that could pull it off well.

And Testar was such a group.

– *I met you*

Midnight

And next

Thanks to this, when the stage was over and the lights were turned on, the audience seats were filled with applause corresponding to 'good viewing'.

The host also jumped out with applause.

[It's like art! It was 'Midnight, and next' from Testar's album <Time to go>. Everyone~ See you in the next corner!]

Thus, their appearance, which began with <127 Section>, ended with 'Testar'.

The screen turned into an advertisement, but the impression of the stage didn't disappear easily.

'It was torn.'

The college student hit the desk with her left hand and lifted her hand up.

And this reaction became public opinion.

* * *

Since we were in the US, we got a lot of schedules to do here and there. After roughly finishing a few things, the <Nerdy Andy Show>, that we appeared on, aired.

Lying on a hotel bed, I checked public opinion in Korea.

First of all, there were a few cliche articles such as 'Successful Appearance, Hot Response', and hmm…

Testar appeared in a video on a popular WeTube channel that reviewed overseas reactions.

[(Overseas reaction) Testar showed the taste of K-pop to white otakus! Collection of responses with Korean subtitles]

'I guess the reaction wasn't bad.'

Seeing that there were a lot of videos like that, it seemed we hadn't been blindly ridiculed by the locals.

I found the stage video uploaded on <Nerdy Andy Show>.

'The view count is pretty high.'

Even the performance beside the 127 Section had similar views. I didn't expect that.

Both videos were lined with English comments, but getting a rough look at the atmosphere wasn't too difficult.

Because I had studied English in my spare time during this activity.

'It's a characteristic already have, but I can't waste it.'

I was conscious of this.

[Characteristic: International student (A)]

– I understand what you said.

: Foreign language proficiency +200%

Because it was about the speed of mastery, the faster I learned, the easier it would be to replace when the next characteristic came out.

Of course, I didn't have a lot of free time so I didn't learn much. I just learned enough to make the words I had memorized didn't feel awkward.

'But I learned faster than I expected.'

If I had something like this when I was still a college student, I would have been stuck in the library for half a year.

Anyway, I just skimmed through the comments.

– Their solid musical identity is interesting

– It's K-pop? *Mind-blown*

– They're great singers. The live performance was impressive!

– I think I'm falling for them. The WeTube algorithm keeps leading me to new videos.

– Popular opinion: Testar was underrated in the K-pop world and no one knew it was the nerds who finally discovered them.

Excluding the comments about 127 Section, the atmosphere was roughly like this.

But what I didn't expect was that 'Midnight, and next' had worked for viewers of this program.

'I thought you'd hate it because it looks gay.'

Isn't that a phrase that comes up often when watching K-pop in that neighborhood? I knew that.

But it seemed we had benefited from the genre of the song.

There were many programmers among the viewers of this show, and it was said that this kind of lo-fi jazz was popular in the neighborhood.

– I added it to my coding playlist

– They looked like true musicians! I wish they would do a fall-in OST too (crying laughing emoticon)

– It’s good calming music. I’ll listen to it when I work on the code all night and haven’t come up with any bugs (scared emoticon)

Anyway, overall… It was a great success.

Just in case, I also checked the domestic game community, and they had completely softened up.

On the contrary, a few people came out to reminisce about the atmosphere of the game in the early days.

‘It was useful to draw the line.’

It seemed we had recovered their favorability because we did a good job of showing the collaboration song live and didn’t look like we were having a hard time with the OST or the characters.

Testar fans, who were on the verge of sharpening their blades against the 127 Section game community, also completely subsided.

“What are you looking at so intently~?”

“The Internet.”

“Our stage?? Good~”

Having washed up, Keun Sejin lay down on the bed next to me.

This was because I got stuck with this guy when we had to randomly change hotel roommates for WeTube uploads.

‘It surprisingly isn’t unpleasant.’

He was a bit annoying and noisy, but our lifestyles were similar.

Keun Sejin in a cheerful voice.

“So, do you think our next album will do better?”

“Let’s see. We have to do it first for me to know.”

“Hey, at times like this, you should say everything’s going to be okay~”

Keun Sejin smiled coolly and started looking into his smartphone.

‘Well, there’s a high chance it’ll work out.’

With the video of <Nerdy Andy Show> receiving favorable reviews, it was noticeable that overseas K-pop fans were rapidly getting interested in Testar.

Probably because we were recognized in a field that wasn’t familiar with K-pop.

‘That’s how people are.’

With this momentum, I thought it would be okay to look forward to the view count of the next album’s music video.

I shrugged my shoulders and told Keun Sejin.

“I’m going to sleep.”

“Yeah, you can turn off the lights~”

I turned off the lights, lied down on the bed, and checked my smartphone again.

Since the monitoring was over, I checked how the domestic public opinion was currently working overall.

And as expected.

When Testar was slowly eating up K-pop overseas, there was an uproar in Korea.

A rookie boy idol's debut song had hit the jackpot in the music industry.

It was Gold 1's group that finally made their debut.

'Oh.'

After checking it roughly, it wasn't at the level of Testar's debut, but it was doing very well on the music charts.

The general consensus was that the song was so good.

'As long as they maintain their momentum, they'll succeed.'

Gold 1 was such a nice guy, so it was a good thing.

And thinking that far, my thoughts went to the other side as well.

My status abnormality.

If Cheongryeo was right, the fourth status abnormality I received this time was my last mission.

And, judging by the flow so far, it would definitely require an even higher baseline.

'…Then, is it better to receive the status abnormality now?'

I thought so when I saw reactions from overseas and the latecomers coming up from Korea.

In short, I thought the next year or so could be my career-high.

Of course, we could continue to do better with endless growth like VTIC. But in this unstable industry environment, I couldn't be so sure.

Still, this year was almost certain to go well.

'Hmm.'

First, I called the status window pop-up.

CHAPTER 145

[Succesfully won the award!]

You have successfully won the Rookie of the Year Award in the recognition of the public, the 'most prestigious domestic award ceremony'!

!Time limit: Fulfilled (great success)

!Status abnormality: 'Win an award or die' removed!

: Check the truth ☜ Click!

First of all, I had to remove this status abnormality by pressing 'Check the truth' before I could move on to the next status abnormality.

The problem was, every time I pressed it, unpleasant stories about other people came out.

'For now, I don't want to see Cheongryeo anymore.'

It was helpful at the time, but now I didn't even want to dig anything out.

'I'd rather look into the circumstances of the original 'Park Moondae'.'

…Come to think of it, I had lost contact with Cheongryeo altogether recently.

This time, the response to our appearance on the <Nerdy Andy Show> was so good that I even received congratulatory texts from people I

wasn't close with.

Even Choi Wongil sent me an apology and a congratulatory message.

– Sunbae-nim, congratulations on entering the US. I'm sorry to bother you all this time.

When I saw the text message that only had business written on it, I was automatically reminded of the apology text from Cheongryeo with only 'I'm sorry' written on it that I had received before.

.

But there was no other contact with him. I just received bomb emoticons from two other Vtic members that I had met on the variety show.

'Emotionally, it's a good thing.'

I hoped this atmosphere where we cut each other off could continue in the future.

I shook my head and looked into the pop-up again.

'Let's go.'

Whatever would come out, there was no need to overreact.

I touched the pop-up.

And like last time, my vision went black.

* * *

What came into view was the inside of a running bus.

Whoo-

People were sitting in each seat, talking or laughing.

I could roughly guess by looking at the uniquely harmonious atmosphere and the wall that had no route map attached.

'It's a rented bus.'

It was not public transportation, but it seemed they even picked up a group of tourists. Their dresses seemed a bit old-fashioned, but maybe a long time ago, they would have looked fashionable.

And then I noticed.

Unlike the previous experiences, my ego was clear, not in someone else's position.

'What the hell is this?'

In the moment of confusion, I saw a familiar face sitting in the window seat to my left.

It was young Ryu Chungwoo.

"…!"

Ryu Chungwoo was asleep with his arms folded, leaning against the window. Even though he was young, he already had a sturdy body.

This was very… out of the blue.

'Ryu Chungwoo is sleeping, what am I supposed to do?'

As I looked at him bitterly, there was a story that suddenly passed by like a flash.

It was what Ryu Chungwoo once said at a drinking party.

– I had a serious car accident when I was young… It wasn't until I grew up that I had the side effects, my hands tremble when I put in strength.

'…No way.'

This couldn't be that sh*t, this was impossible.

But the impossible happened.

The bus, which was running coolly down the highway, suddenly turned.

In an instant, the bus stumbled.

"Argh!"

The moment the screams and bus driver's shouts crossed paths, the left window pane was shattered and something bounced.

It was a torn-out side-view mirror.

And like that, the piece of iron stabbed Ryu Chungwoo's shoulder.

"…!!"

"Chungwoo!"

The shouts and screams turned the bus into a mess.

'What kind of psychopath is trying to show something like this live?!'

I reflexively tried to reach out to pull Ryu Chungwoo, but I realized I didn't have a body.

I watched the ambulance carry Ryu Chungwoo, who had collapsed looking very gruesome.

…I had a mixed feeling about this.

I could hear the paramedics and the passengers talking.

“The report came in as ‘one injured child’, so the size of the transport vehicle is only that big.”

“Oh, we’re fine! If we’re sick, we can go to the hospital.”

Certainly, it was Ryu Chungwoo who was seriously injured.

The paramedics, who immediately agreed, only took the collapsed Ryu Chungwoo and his crying parents to the ambulance and headed to the hospital.

The remaining passengers seemed to have agreed to drive off the road by taxi, with only one or two remaining as representatives to handle insurance.

And I continued staying in this field of vision.

‘What’s this.’

It would be better to follow Ryu Chungwoo, but for some reason, I kept staying here.

And the moment my field of view was directed back to the passengers.

“Then we proceed like this?”

“Yes.”

I… I stopped thinking.

The people I thought I would never see again were standing there, looking fine.

…Mom and Dad.

“Get in first. We’ll take the next one.”

“Aigoo thank you~”

Yeah. It was that kind of voice.

Unlike with the pictures, not a single voice line remained.

The videos I took when I was younger were also lost when I moved out, so the voice that only remained in my memory quickly became dull.

Sometimes I remembered it in my sleep. But I couldn’t record it, so it soon crumbled.

I felt like my heart would jump out of my mouth.

But now only my consciousness was here, I was able to complete my speculation instead.

‘…This must be a relatives’ gathering.’

This bus was probably for the meeting of the Pungsan Ryu clan. Before I came into Park Moondae’s body, it was my–Ryu Gunwoo’s–and… Ryu Chungwoo’s family name.

It seemed Ryu Chungwoo had the accident while he was on his way to the family trip.

I felt sorry Ryu Chungwoo, but… I couldn’t see it as something unfortunate, and I was very, very glad that I stayed here.

…I was really glad.

My parents took a taxi with some relatives. I also saw a familiar face that I was indebted to for a year or two in middle and high school.

‘It’s a relative gathering.’

I nodded inwardly, then suddenly… I had a strange thought.

‘This… When is this?’

I remembered… When the figures of my parents looked the most similar to this time.

‘You can’t.’

Like a conditioned reflex, an eerie feeling hit my head.

The taxi left at once.

I heard my mother’s voice.

“I wonder if he will be okay. I’m worried.”

“I know. Everyone must have been startled, but when we arrive at the pension, let’s take a break and go back. It’s the long-awaited family event, my God.”

“We came all the way to Gangwon-do and now we’re like this, I wonder how Mom and Dad would feel… Sigh.”

Family event. Gangwon-do.

Keywords that shouldn’t come out continued…

“Still, I’m glad Gunwoo didn’t come. He says he is preparing for the English language, he’s working hard~ Who does he take after?”

“He takes after Mom. The two of them are very smart.”

“Sigh, I like our harmonious relationship.”

“Haha!”

The sound of laughter messed with my head. Something was strange.

Something…

“We’re here.”

“Let’s lie down, catch a bus or train, and go back to Seoul.”

Outside the window, I could see the pension.

It was a wooden building with a nice atmosphere that matched well with the mountain.

I thought I could only saw pictures of it burnt out…

‘Stop.’

However, the people in the taxi got off side by side and went into the pension with their luggage.

I was left here.

‘Stop it.’

But my field of vision returned in an instant.

The time was running out.

And soon, smoke began to rise from the pension.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack…

A small spark flew inside. From outside, it was midday, so that brightness didn't seem weird.

But people die from things like that.

Especially in buildings built with unauthorized combustible building materials…

In the presence of poisonous smoke.

They fell asleep and couldn't come out.

Beep, beep, beep-

The belated sound of sirens shook my brain.

* * *

It was over.

"Urgh."

I brought my hand to my mouth. Still, the sound leaked.

I threw the blanket over my face. Finally, I could shut my mouth.

'What's this.'

I didn't know. What kind of situation is this? Why do I have to watch that sh*t?

My brain was weird. I couldn't think straight.

I had to calm down. The reason I had to calm down was because…

‘There’s a W live tomorrow.’

Right. I had a schedule tomorrow. We were going to broadcast following the Korean evening time zone about how we were hanging out at the hotel, so…

Can I stand in front of the camera?

Can I really work in this state… Why do I have to worry about this?

“Hey, what’s wrong?”

Camera, I don’t give a sh*t, why did I have to watch that? Why do I have to f*cking live like this?

“Park Moondae, are you okay? What is it?”

“Don’t talk to me.”

“What?”

“Don’t f*cking talk to me…!”

I couldn’t tell what I was saying because of the blanket. But the person talking to me seemed to understand. He didn’t talk to me anymore.

Alright, let’s think… Think…

[Outbreak!]

Status abnormality: ‘Get the audiences or die’ has occurred!

“F*ck, really.”

I crashed my head to the bedside table.

“Hyung!”

“Park Moondae!”

The noises increased. It seemed the number of people had increased.

The bed shrank, and a few hands grabbed my shoulder.

“…Do you want to go to the hospital now? Where does it hurt?”

“I am not sick.”

“Then why?… What’s wrong? Just say it first. I won’t tell the company.”

“…”

I was tired.

This… I couldn’t explain it, so I’d like you to shut up and get out. It was the best I could do. Even if I explained it, the situation sounded irrational.

“M-Moondae. This.”

Someone put something in my hand. It was a cup of water. And… a medicine.

I put it in my mouth and swallowed the water.

I felt like it would flow back, but it went through.

“…”

The surroundings became quiet.

And me too, somehow… My head was cold.

"…Is it a sedative?"

"…! P-Painkillers, sleeping pills…"

Ah, yeah. You couldn't buy sedatives without a prescription.

Still, whatever it was that I put in my mouth, my sense of reality returned. And having a conversation with a familiar person, I felt like I had escaped my messed up mind.

'Let's calm down.'

After coughing a few times, I looked up.

"…I had a bad dream. I'm sorry. For making a fuss."

"I-It's all right!"

"…Have you calmed down?"

However, the moment I saw Ryu Chungwoo among the faces of some nervous members, I felt a strong urge to slam that bastard's face to the table.

'I can't do this.'

It was clear that my head was still off.

I lay back on the bed.

"Once again, I'm sorry… Now that I've taken some medicine, I'll go back to sleep."

However, it was immediately refuted.

"…No, go to the hospital."

"What?"

It was Bae Sejin's voice. I could feel a sign of tension.

"I'll call the manager, so go get the diagnosis and get a sedative. You don't have to, but you should."

"…"

I couldn't deny it.

In the end, I got out of bad.

Accompanied by the manager who came running in bewilderment, I went through the emergency room in the middle of America and bought sedatives.

The sedatives I received under the excuse of insomnia were quite effective. From that day on, I went to bed without any major problems.

And right after that, I was able to handle the schedule without any problems, except for one W live that I missed due to health reasons. I could do all that without thinking much about anything else.

With that sorted out, two problems remained.

One of them was… that I got so reluctant to call the status window.

There was enough delay period, so it was okay for now. The other problem was much more troublesome.

I couldn't interact with Ryu Chungwoo.

I managed to say hello, but if I had to go further, I would go crazy thinking of that sh*tty ‘Check the truth’.

…But all of a sudden, my roommate for the next shoot was Ryu Chungwoo.

‘I am going crazy’.

I had to pick between rumors of discord and my mental health.

CHAPTER 146

“Come on, smile~”

The sound of the shutter rang out. Sitting on the pool, Testar smiled at the camera with their arms around each shoulder.

Of course, I was included there.

“The picture looks good. You’ve worked hard~”

“Thank you!”

Since we came all the way to the US, we were filming a summer package.

It was the one that combined pictorial and simple reality video content together.

And in this video content, a roommate was assigned under the request of the production team to ‘film a combination that was rarely seen’.

This meant that Park Moondae and Ryu Chungwoo ended up sharing the same room.

Ah, it just had to happen now.

“Moondae, towel.”

“…Yes.”

I snatched the towel and wiped my neck.

My stomach churned.

'Whoo.'

I tried to restrain myself as much as possible, but I didn't know if this would be caught on camera or not.

'…Damn it.'

I knew.

It wasn't Ryu Chungwoo's fault.

But what should I do when I keep being reminded of that sh*t? Every time I saw him… I remembered.

Thanks to this, the roommate content was completely ruined. We couldn't even have a proper conversation in the room.

This was my limit.

I just hoped there were no rumors of discord going around. For now… Only for now, if I went back to Korea and fall back a little, I would get better.

'…I'm going crazy.'

As soon as the break time was announced, I got up from my seat.

It seemed they were going to make their roommates ride some water slide in a little while, so I was going to stay away from them.

But a tail stuck to me again.

"H-Hey…"

“What.”

“T-This.”

Seon Ahyeon, who followed me, held out a take-out cup. There was a steaming drink in it.

Seeing that he had a cup in his hand, it must have been handed out by the staff.

“…”

I accepted the cup. If I didn’t, he would continue talking.

Seon Ahyeon didn’t leave even after giving me a drink and he sat down on the obscure street.

But instead of talking to me, he sipped his drink while sneakily glancing at me.

It was quiet.

“…”

I lost strength in my shoulders.

As I sat on the flower bed, I brought the hot drink to my mouth.

‘It’s hot chocolate.’

It was terrible.

* * *

After riding a water slide across a shark aquarium, we proceeded with the content of gathering and exchanging questions.

It was bearable.

“Great~ Then I’ll pick a question!”

Keun Sejin laughed and picked a question out of the box.

“Hmm, ‘the member I’ve become closest to recently’, I can get a lot of votes with this. It’s me! Because I am naturally a friendly member~”

Let’s get this over with.

“For me, it’s Lee Sejin.”

“Gasp! Moondae, you rely on me a lot these days? It’s so touching! I’ll pick Moondae, too~”

Keun Sejin, who immediately changed his posture, smiled and patted my back.

“Now, what about our Eugene?”

“It’s Bae Sejin hyung! I like my roommate.”

They moved on to the next person right away, so I didn’t have to talk anymore. I answered in a somewhat funny way so it wouldn’t look strange.

“Hahaha, is it me again?”

The laughter and chatter continued for a long time.

After a few questions passed by… towards the end.

The last question came out.

“This is the last question card.’What was a difficult life experience that you overcame?’. Well, it sounds like a question that can come up with a lot of examples.”

“…Ah~ Isn’t this too gloomy to be the last question? How about a chance to pick one more?”

“…? I think it’s great and meaningful!”

With Kim Raebin’s answer, the question resumed.

…Starting with Ryu Chungwoo.

“Hmm, an experience that I overcame. Actually, the reason I quit archery… It wasn’t out of my own will. When I was young, I was in a car accident during a family trip.”

Stop.

“It was because of the aftereffects from that time.”

…No, I’m filming. Let’s think about something else.

“But now, being able to meet you and make a debut and do activities like this, I can just accept the turning point in my life. Thanks, guys. Thank you, Loviewer!”

“Great!”

“…Is it okay to talk about this?”

“Haha, I think it’s my first time talking about this in front of the camera, but I said it knowing that the fans are going to see it.”

“Oh, Chungwoo hyung’s experience is too much~ Shall we just surrender and choose a new one? Eugene has to pick one, too!”

“Let me pick!”

I felt like throwing up.

“…Park Moondae!”

“Wait. Bathroom.”

I got off the sofa and left the room full of lights. I ran down the connected dark hallway and went into the bathroom.

“Urgh.”

Fortunately, nothing came up to my throat. No, it wasn’t a good thing. If I focused on my actions, I could stop thinking…

“Shut up.”

I turned on the water in the sink and crashed my head.

The cold water felt nice.

“…Moondae!”

“Moondae-ssi, are you okay?”

“Hyung!”

I heard some people calling outside. It was fortunate that it was self-produced content. If it was a regular broadcast, it couldn’t be fixed.

‘I have to go.’

But I couldn’t lift my head. A little longer… Just a little bit more…

“Stop.”

I lifted my head out of the water.

And after roughly wiping off the water, I opened the bathroom door.

A few staff and members were standing outside the door.

"…I'm sorry. I feel a little sick."

"No, are you all right? Can you shoot now?"

"…Yes."

Keun Sejin stepped in.

"Park Moondae. They said it's okay to postpone the shooting here a little bit. If you need some rest…"

"It's the same anyway. Just do it."

After wiping off the rest of the water, I continued shooting.

And this time it was finished without any major problems.

"See you again, Loviewer!"

But I realized.

That this was going to be a big fuck*ng deal.

'I need to come up with measures.'

In the evening, the full-scale shooting was finished.

Instead of going back to Ryu Chungwoo's room, I went to the garden behind the hotel to sort out my situation.

For now, my condition was definitely PTSD. There was no room for further discussion.

The problem was, I thought this would subside over time, but now that it had reached this point, I was skeptical about how long it would take until then.

'…There's no answer.'

If it took me more than two or three months to recover, there would be problems with future Testar activities.

Then I could only hope that it would be possible for me to restart if I died from the status abnormality.

'…The fact that I think it'll be okay even if it's all over is a problem.'

It was clear what had happened to my mind. I sighed.

Ring-

At that moment, the smartphone I put in my pocket vibrated.

When I took it out and checked, there was a call coming from an unexpected name.

[VTIC Cheongryeo sunbae-nim]

It was Cheongryeo.

"…Sigh."

Normally, I just wouldn't take it. But for now, I had to.

I couldn't help but wanted to ask if he'd ever received a sh*t compensation for a status abnormality like this.

“…Hello.”

When I answered the phone, a slightly puzzled voice responded.

– Hmm, I didn’t expect you to answer right away.

“Yes. What’s the matter?”

– It’s been a while since I contacted you, don’t be so… Are you doing well?

“If you don’t have any business, I’ll start with mine.”

– Haha, yes.

“Have you ever seen anything like an illusion?”

-… Illusion?

“During the mission.”

-…

There was no words from the other side of the phone for a while, then I heard an answer.

– Ah, you have some problem.

“…!”

– Record? Company? No, I don’t think so… Is it something more uncontrollable? Then, relationship?

“…”

– It’s relationship.

What’s with this bastard.

– Sounds like a stressful situation, hm… I have an advice but If I say it, you’ll only get more stressed.

He must have thought I was seeing an illusion because of the stress.

In that case, this bastard had never received any compensation for the status abnormality.

“Say it.”

– Really?

Yeah. I didn’t think I would care about anything I heard from this guy now anyway.

Let’s talk about restarting.

Then I heard his calm voice over the phone.

– You don’t have to be stressed.

“…”

– If you go back to the beginning anyway, the emotional exhaustion you have now doesn’t mean anything. I’d just… I’d leave it out next time. I thought like that…

“…”

– It’s going to disappear anyway.

…It’s going to disappear.

For the first time, I made a clear assumption.

Let’s say I could really go back.

Let’s assume that if I also failed, I would go back to the 20-year-old Park Moondae’s birthday.

So, until now, 22-year-old Park Moondae had never happened and was trying to make it again from scratch.

Having done it once, I would definitely take it easy. If I took a lottery number with me, I could live in a secure place from the beginning.

And I could do better from the start. I already knew.

Avoiding all the tiring and embarrassing things that had happened from the first filming of <Idol Inc> to after the debut, and to create a group with a better number of people…

‘No.’

…I didn’t want to.

It was funny, but even if it was how I overcame all status abnormalities…

I didn’t think I would like it more than I did now.

The hardships and troubles, all the things I had made with these snotty brats… I’d come to think of them as my achievements.

And even if it was made again, it could never mean the same thing as it was now.

Of course, things were a bit of a mess right now. Still, because of this, it wasn’t right to give up now.

My mind had cleared up a bit.

I opened my mouth.

“It could disappear, so I’ll have to try harder.”

-… That.

“Thank you for your advice, sunbae-nim.”

– You’ll regret it.

“Well, I guess. Who would just sit back and not doing anything? Then I’ll go in now.”

I hung up.

And I thought.

‘This bastard is helpful too.’

Surprisingly, my rationality, which had left its spot, seemed to have returned because of the phone call with Cheongryeo.

Then, let’s objectively find the best option for the current situation.

If I didn’t see any signs of recovery… There was only one answer.

‘Suspension of activities due to health problems.’

Talking from experience, if I took medicine and lived in seclusion by myself for about a month, I would feel better. This was better than the group’s discord.

If the company refused, well… I had no choice but to put up with the rumors of discord.

If I explained to others that I might become a psychopath if I saw Ryu Chungwoo's face, they would eliminate the point of contact between Park Moondae and Ryu Chungwoo as much as possible.

We would be uncomfortable with each other, but it was the company's fault for holding on to the guy who was trying to recuperate, so I'd just tell them to send their complaints to the company.

Still, I wanted to do as little damage as possible, so I hoped the company accepted my suspension of activities.

'This far.'

I left the garden and returned to my room.

Now that I'd calmed down a bit, I thought it would be possible to say hello to him.

'I will endure it somehow until this summer package shoot is over.'

There was no other choice. After all, when I would leave tomorrow, I just needed to pick the ending cut.

If I could hold it in.

However, when I opened the door and entered, I saw an unexpected sight.

"…You're here?"

Ryu Chungwoo was sitting on a chair with bottles of wine overflowing on top of the table.

"…"

I slowly backed out to the door and closed it…

“I took all the cameras. You can drink.”

“…”

At that moment, I realized that I was desperate for a drink.

‘Damn it.’

I knew it wasn’t good for me to drink in this situation. But…

“Here.”

I reached out for the bottle. And plucked off the cap.

I brought it to my mouth.

It was only then that I realized that my mouth was trembling. There was the sound of teeth clicking against the opening of the bottle.

“…”

I turned around and continued to pour the drink down my throat.

I didn’t think of anything.

Then, I heard a voice.

“You’re holding back something from me.”

“…”

“You’re just holding back because you’re afraid that things will end up in an irreversible state while you try to hold it in. Am I right?”

I heard the sound of carbonic acid leaking.

“Just tell me. I don’t get hurt by this kind of thing.”

Even if I tell you about that sh*t, you won’t understand.

This… This was not a situation that could be understood by common sense.

It wasn’t even this guy’s fault.

Seeing as I hadn’t even known this guy’s name in the first place, he was a distant relative I didn’t know much about. The Pungsan Ryu clan must have done a lot of things together, so they went out together.

‘And since their kid was in such a big accident, his parents wouldn’t have time to worry about other things, that’s why, I mean, at the funeral, I didn’t see them… ’

I put the drink back in my throat.

F*ck, I couldn’t stand it.

I picked up a new bottle. I heard the calm voice again.

“…Great. Then speak only as far as you can tolerate. I won’t tell anyone.”

“…”

“Whether it’s to the company or a hospital, I won’t even say a word.”

At that moment, unthinkable words popped out of my mouth.

“Because I’m jealous.”

“?”

“I’m jealous.”

And as I spoke, I realized at the same time.

I was jealous of this bastard.

If I went on the trip that day and got hurt like Ryu Chungwoo, I hoped my parents wouldn't go to that damn pension because they would be with me in the ambulance

It wasn't just because I was reminded of the accident, but this bastard was also annoying.

Seeing him talk about the greatest luck in his life as if was a bad experience made my stomach twist.

"Your parents are fine and you live doing everything you want to do… I am jealous."

"…!"

I put down my finished drink and took a deep breath.

I had been saying all kinds of crazy stuff… Strangely enough, I felt refreshed

Ryu Chungwoo didn't answer for a long time.

And after a while, he handed me another bottle of wine.

"Did you remember it when you were asleep?"

"What?"

"I heard it from Raebin. It sounds like you were recalling your old memories while sleeping."

"…"

“I brought up the side-effects from a traffic accident… I must have sounded full of myself.”

…It seemed they misunderstood that the parents of ‘Park Moondae’ had died in a car accident.

He must have felt like he was whining about the aftereffects of a car accident in front of a guy whose parents had died in a car accident.

…Similarly, it was like that.

“I’m sorry for saying that.”

“You don’t have to apologize.”

“Still, it feels good to listen to an apology. Look, it’s been a while since I talked to you.”

“…”

“Moondae… It’s okay to talk about this comfortably.”

Ry Chungwoo opened another bottle.

“Human, in the face of fear and pain… They usually get angry and blame others, but it’s okay.”

“…”

“I was just like that when I quit archery. Maybe there wasn’t such a truth.”

Ryu Chungwoo smiled faintly.

“But you don’t look like you can even do that. It’s fine, you can do it now. How can a person live rationally every time?”

“…”

I put the bottle down.

My hand trembled a little.

“…I didn’t want to live a hard life.”

I thought I was doing pretty well.

Until I graduated from high school, I received support here and there, and I was able to save living expenses somehow because I was good with my hands.

I thought it wasn’t that bad, in fact, there wasn’t anything special, so I endured it, but I guess I really hated it.

“But I can’t live like that, so I feel like sh*t.”

“…Right.”

“It’s a little too much.”

I opened another bottle.

I thought it would be uncomfortable between us after saying this, but it surprisingly turned out okay.

I didn’t know if it was because of the alcohol, but… Anyway, it turned out like this for now.

I quenched my throat slowly.

I wasn’t sure because I was drunk, but after that, it sounded like I just lined up words and sentences without any context.

Ryu Chungwoo didn't intervene in particular, but he reacted occasionally.

Then he finally brought it up.

"I decided not to talk about the hospital, but… Still, it would be better to get counseling when you go back to Korea. With Ahyeon."

"…"

"I'm saying this not because you look crazy, but it's because you look tired."

"Okay."

"I got a lot of money, too, so I'll spend some for you."

"Okay."

I swallowed a drink.

"But it's still hard to look at you."

Ryu Chungwoo looked bewildered for a moment, then laughed out loud for the first time.

"Haha, let's take it slow. It's not like we won't see each other for a month or two, so it's okay to spend some time away from each other."

"…Okay."

It was true.

"However, Moondae. Use some honorifics. You're talking informally all of a sudden."

"…!"

I had completely forgotten…

I kept drinking, resuming the honorifics as requested.

The conversation went a bit off track and we didn't sit face to face, but it wasn't that uncomfortable.

I found out the next day that the bottles were part of room service and were charged crazy prices, but it wasn't such a waste.

And after returning to Korea, fortunately, a new schedule was waiting for me to spend time alone in between schedules.

It was a solo appearance that I had been putting off due to the visit to the US.

CHAPTER 147

“Hyung, I am really sorry. In order to hastily and arbitrarily judge the situation, I carelessly shared the personal experience hyung shared with me…”

“It’s fine.”

If I had to listen to it one more time, it would be the fifth time.

I was a little fed up receiving Kim Raebin’s apology.

‘Anyone who sees this would think I was being framed.’

All this guy did was tell the members, ‘Moondae hyung said he remembered the past in his sleep’.

It was most likely that he did it because he was scared or nervous.

Based on that, my sad plight must have been something he was trying to interpret and respond to.

‘…I thought I hid it well.’

It was an illusion.

When I came to Korea and checked the filming of the summer package, my atmosphere was so awkward and gloomy.

‘They must have been afraid something happened to me so they treated me carefully’

Even the camera occasionally caught these guys being worried or nervous.

The reason why the filming went smoothly was entirely thanks to Keun Sejin, who talked twice as much by himself.

'…Ryu Chungwoo was holding back.'

It was clear from the beginning of the shoot that he realized how uncomfortable I was with him.

Putting up with the silence, I said to Kim Raebin.

"Then I should apologize. I'm sorry for the bad atmosphere."

"Yes? You absolutely don't have to! In the first place, there is no need to apologize for the unexpected event that occurred in a situation where the filming was in progress…"

"Alright. In the same sense, you don't have to apologize either."

"…! I understand. Thank you!"

After convincing me that 'there is no need to apologize', Kim Raebin finally stopped talking and left after saying goodbye.

"I'll go in. I hope you have a good time."

"Yes, you too."

Immediately the room became quiet. One roommate was absent due to a schedule and the other was due to his quiet hobby.

'The world is quiet.'

I sighed and buried myself in bed.

But another noise came from the next bed.

'…It's been less than three seconds since I said it was quiet.'

It was Bae Sejin.

"…Hey, are you okay?"

"Yes? Yes."

It was an obvious answer, but in reality, my condition was quite stable.

I didn't know if it was because I drank and settled it down a little at the last minute, or if it was because I left a strange country where all kinds of things happened and returned to my room in a familiar dorm.

Either way, It didn't feel as unbearable as I had felt before.

Just remembering it made me break out in a cold sweat. So I was happy to add an explanation.

"There will be no interruptions to the filming now. Don't worry."

"I-I didn't worry about that!!"

Bae Sejin shouted and then, in surprise, grabbed the book he was reading.

"…!"

What do you want me to do?

Anyway, after checking the filming of the summer package, I checked the actual package today. This was the day the summer package was released on the market.

‘Just in case.’

I picked up my smartphone and finally started monitoring it all the way.

“…Hmm.”

I did this just in case, but fortunately, there was no problem.

After going through the magic of editing, my attitude changed to a moderately passive degree.

The response wasn’t bad either.

– It hurts more because I can see that he’s trying not to show that he wasn’t feeling well ㅠㅠ

– Park Moondae’s eyes are all frozen. His motivation and original resolution are all smashed

└Yeah no, assh*le. He looks sick. What nonsense are you saying

└I have no words, you can’t say anything to a kid who couldn’t show up because he was sick

– The kids take care of Moondae, and it warms my heart. Testar will last forever.

– Summer package of a quiet puppy (Moondae GIF)

‘As expected, it was right to reduce my reaction rather than react sharply.’

It seemed to be the right choice to reduce the response and expression of my emotions to other members and the situations as much as possible.

Of course, although there were occasional aggros such as ‘Where is Park Moondae’s initial commitment’, they didn’t receive favorable responses and disappeared after being beaten down.

It was thanks to public opinion thinking that I was really sick because it was short-lived and I even missed a W live before the filming.

…It pricked my conscience.

‘I wasn’t particularly sick.’

I’d already used the excuse of being sick once, so I would have to take care of myself properly for the next half year or so.

If I got sick again, it wouldn’t be a simple matter from then on, and useless noises could come out.

I could skip these summer packages because only fans tend to buy them, but we didn’t know how it would be in the future.

‘I’ll have to be careful.’

I shrugged and turned off my phone.

Looking at the neat situation on the internet, I thought it was good that I overdid it at the time.

…And, I kept my promise.

Beep beep.

[Consultation time]

When I turned off the alarm that was ringing on my smartphone, Bae Sejin stealthily started talking to me again.

“…Counseling?”

“Yes.”

“Well thought out.”

“Yes.”

At the time Seon Ahyeon went to get counseling, I decided to get counseling too.

Thanks to this, I went out today with Seon Ahyeon, who had returned from his schedule.

“M-Moondae. Let’s contact each other when getting out…!”

“Yeah… All right.”

But to be honest, it didn’t do much good.

“So, what’s your biggest concern recently?”

“…The same as everyone else.”

“Okay~ Any examples?”

“Hmm, I also have concerns about whether I can do my job properly.”

Because it was impossible to tell the counselor ‘If I can’t resolve the status abnormality, I will die, but this bastard even shows strange visions, causing PTSD symptoms to pop out like seizures’.

It would be seen as a way to show off.

“Mr. Moondae. You’re doing well enough right now. Have you ever thought it would be okay to be more generous to yourself?”

"…I do, just a little."

Well, still… Confiding with an expert gave me a sense of security.

My nerves that were on the edge were lessened, and my inner composure was strengthened.

On top of that, since we weren't on an activity period in Korea, my schedule wasn't too excessive, so I finally thought of trying 'that' again.

In the bathroom of the dorm after returning from the consultation.

I caught my breath.

"…Status window."

Goosebumps ran down my spine, but not enough to knock me off.

Like this, I checked the status window for the first time in a while.

…to properly check the new status abnormality.

[Get the audiences or die]

: If you fail to meet more than 200,000 spectators within the time limit, you will die

The number of people reached: 2,219 / 200,000

Remaining period: D-339

'Are you crazy?'

Again, this number had no conscience.

'This is a number that requires me to go on an overseas tour.'

Thanks to the event, I got about 2000 people, but this also had a limit. It's not like there were events all year round.

According to the plan, it seemed we would start a tour starting with a concert in Korea around autumn, so the timing wasn't an issue… It was now a matter of the scale.

It wasn't bad enough that I should give up early, and if I combined the events with other things, it was worth a try.

'In the end, I have no choice but to release a good album.'

It was back to the original matter.

…Still, thinking that this would be the last time, I felt a little calm.

'It's not Grand Prize.'

I tried to return the status window with slightly trembling hands, but I suddenly realized that I didn't need to use my hands.

This meant my head wasn't working properly.

'…It's not normal.'

The status window disappeared. I resisted the urge to submerge my head into the sink again.

And I thought.

'…What the hell do you want?'

I didn't know why the status window was like this.

As the first reward, Park Moondae… This was a bit different from when the circumstances of the real Park Moondae surfaced or the second

time when the circumstances of Cheongryeo were told in detail.

I thought they were hints of how this regression thing was currently going.

But what I saw in America… F*ck, anyway, that… It's not like that right?

No explanation, no help… Isn't that right?

"…Huft."

Let's stop.

I took a deep breath and sort out my mind.

The answer wouldn't come out even if I thought hard about it anyway. I'd just do what I could.

It was the best course of action.

'First of all, the biggest schedule I currently have.'

It was a solo schedule. I remembered it since the time I got wasted and emptied Ryu Chungwoo's wallet.

'It's not bad to have some time to work alone.'

…In fact, I had never talked openly with Ryu Chungwoo since I came to Korea.

It wasn't too difficult to say hello, chat casually, and act the script in front of the camera, but to do more than that… I had a track record so trying that would be a bit reckless.

'I should do this to keep my distance.'

I happily accepted the solo schedule.

– Moondae, is this okay? Isn't it too fast?

– It's fine.

And actually, I looked forward to it.

Because the stats I charged last time were for this kind of variety show.

'I ended up doing it later than I thought.'

It was a perfect situation for a change of mood.

I kicked the useless scraps out of my head and laughed, thinking only of the pure facts.

This was a singing variety show.

And my current vocal stat was…

It was S-.

* * *

<The Singer I Made>.

It was an entertainment show that had been popular on MBS recently.

The format of this program, in which celebrities hid their identities and showed up to sing and were selected as a winner through a survival contest, was probably a bit boring.

Right now, MBS also had an entertainment show that became popular using that format.

However, this <Singer I Made> had a unique difference. That difference was… the cast didn't appear in person.

Right. They appeared on stage as holograms.

It wasn't you, it was the 'character' you had set up.

The cast created a mascot singer character by creating a profile from appearance to personality, taste, and age.

Then, a hologram machine supported by a large company embodied the character on the stage.

Viewers were amazed at the taste of cutting-edge technology that even implemented the motions of the cast members connected under the stage, and thanks to the familiar format, they fell in love without feeling any sense of dissonance.

So, even a high school student here, who was flipping through the channels, stopped clicking on the remote control after seeing the familiar stage screen of this variety show.

"Oh~ Fake Singer~"

Snickering while calling out its rude nickname, the male high school student stared at the screen without much thought.

His older sister had gone into her room to see those Testar stuff.

Maybe for a while, he could lie down comfortably in front of the TV without worrying about being robbed.

Coincidentally, the program had just started the second part after the commercial break.

[Survival stage where imagination becomes reality!]

[<Singer I Made>! The ‘singer’ who will be on the fifth stage is now! Ready!]

[Wooow!]

From baseball players to triangular gimbap, scenes where unpredictable characters of all kinds suddenly appeared were always quite fun.

‘Now, it’s time for the dinosaur to come out one more time~ Don’t be boring!‘

The high school student grinned as he recalled the last winner, a red-eyed, short-legged dinosaur called ‘Tyrannosaurus’.

The MC shouted spiritedly.

[Here comes the new singer!]

[His name is…]

Dadumdadum, along with drum rolls, the spotlights giddied up and down across the stage.

Then, a tall figure began to form and appear on the stage.

A white veil covered his nice body in a white wedding suit.

After that, the hologram of flying white butterflies wrapped around the figure and disappeared.

‘Ah, it’s a human again~’

Just as the high school student was about to boo, he could see beyond the close-up veil.

Where the face was supposed to be, instead, there were colorful flowers placed like a bouquet.

“Heol.”

[Welcome, ‘Groom in May’~]

Cheers and applause that sounded artificially inserted echoed from the screen.

CHAPTER 148

With applause from the audience, a microphone appeared in front of the singer character's hologram named 'Groom in May'.

It was a standing microphone.

The marble stand microphone, which didn't exist in reality, was intertwined with gorgeous flower vines and white lace.

Groom in May bowed politely.

And he grabbed the stand microphone with both hands wearing white gloves.

[What kind of voice will 'Groom in May' play out?]

The high school student, who barely escaped the impact of the colorful flower bouquet head, tapped the sole of his feet.

"What's with the concept?"

He felt a slight resentment because it felt like this guy was trying to look cool to girls.

However, the slightly eerie and bizarre feeling that broke through the gorgeous and innocent image of a wedding was entertaining.

*'Guys who try to save faces usually f*cking suck at singing.'*

The high school student tried to deny the favorable impression and looked at the screen.

The accompaniment was starting.

The shimmering sound of two pianos and the bright and cheerful sound of brass rose above the beat of the drums.

– *With the most beautiful heart*

My confession to you

“Huh?”

It was a very famous marriage proposal song.

Originally, in the first qualifying round with a total of 10 players, it was a rule to sing songs that were faithful to the character concept.

So, of course, the song selection was predictable, but there was only one point that the viewer didn’t predict.

He sang really well.

– *In May when flowers bloom*

Our youth in full bloom.

With the kindest heart

My love for you

His tidy and neat voice gave off a low, rich sound.

It was not a high-pitched sound or some sort of crazy technique. However, it was a voice that perfectly suited this song.

As if the song was supposed to be sung like this.

– When you hear love

Think of me

Today and tomorrow

I love you

It was a beautiful song that he wanted to keep listening to, without squeaking or missing some parts.

And in the preliminaries, only 1 minute and 30 seconds were allowed, so the song stopped at the unsatisfying part.

[Sweet marriage proposal song]

Beyond applause and captions, 'The Groom in May' finished the song and bowed politely once again.

"Ooh."

He was pretty good.

The high school student nodded his head. Maybe he was not an actor or model, but a singer.

'Was it a ballad song?'

It wasn't an explosive vocal, but it seemed he could pass the first round without a hitch.

[Full of echo. Did you feel his inner strength?]

[It was such a beautiful voice~]

[I think he's definitely a singer]

No matter what the musicians invited as judges said, there was no particular reaction from ‘The Groom in May’.

He just stood in a neat posture and tilted his head from side to side at the questions.

In other words, the bouquet was swaying.

“Ah, concept bug[1]it is a word used to mock someone who is deeply stuck in a character they created. Probably similar to chuunibyou. -ssi.”

The high school student was sick of it, saying that he was probably an old singer who made appearances in entertainment shows.

The movements and atmosphere were so plausible that he felt embarrassed for getting immersed in them.

[Thank you~]

After hearing all of the judges’ comments, ‘The Groom in May’ soon quietly disappeared from the stage.

And the first round stages that followed were all almost the same except for one or two.

This meant that the list of finalists announced after the commercial break was obvious.

[The third singer to advance to the final is… It’s ‘Groom in May’!]

I knew it.’

The high school student admired himself for his discerning eyes which managed to get all of them right except for one finalist.

‘I’m really amazing.’

Up to this point, the high school student had no expectations for the next performance of ‘Groom in May’.

Because he thought what ‘Groom in May’ showed in the first round was his limit.

‘I’ll bet 1,000 won on the guy who pushes with his vocal.’

“…?!”

And a little later.

His 1,000 won disappeared without mercy.

[Argh!]

The high school student opened his mouth wide.

…There were several reasons why this happened.

In the finals, the six finalists had to sing an appointed song. Therefore, the cast had practiced one of the three songs presented by the production team beforehand for the finals.

Originally, it was fun to see which character selected which song and to compare the cast members who selected the same song.

This time, however, an unexpected event occurred.

Four people chose the same song.

It was a classic ballad from the 90s called ‘Winter Night’.

And ‘Groom in May’ also failed to avoid this probability and selected the corresponding song.

Since there were four of them, the arrangement was bound to overlap.

However, ‘The Groom in May’ did some expedient.

– *Drunk at this late hour*

Even if I sing,

Winter nights are the same

The snow wind blows hard

He arranged the sorrowful parting ballad song into a luxurious musical-style orchestra full of tragic beauty.

In other words, the high pitch of the climax was outrageous.

– *When the night I shed tears goes away*

When the cold morning comes,

With the sunlight by the window,

Come searching

It ended in a low pitch and was raised all the way up to a super high pitch.

In contrast with the first song, which was sweet and soft, the overflowing high pitch and strong vocalization came as a shock.

And on the live stage, this great vocal stunt worked well.

[Waaaaaa!!]

After the performance, the applause and cheers were incomparable to the first stage.

Originally, the high pitch was excessive enough to ruin the afterglow, but thanks to the grand arrangement, it ended with a thrill.

It was like winning a 1:3 bare-chested duel in the Colosseum.

“That’s awesome.”

The high school student admired his voice.

What was assumed to be an old-fashioned singer making appearances in entertainment shows was transformed into a ‘real singer who is lost to the light of times’.

‘Even considering the adjustment, isn’t he a top tier?’

Even if he was a concept bug, it was acceptable.

The high school student nodded.

He was speculating whether he was an indie singer with an artistic disease or an old man who wanted to look cool or something like that, but someone suddenly appeared.

It was his older sister.

“…What are you doing?”

Kim Raebin’s solo fan, the older sister of the high school student, was watching the TV with her mouth wide open.

It seemed she had heard ‘Groom in May’ singing on the way. Or she had listened and ran out here because it was so amazing.

The high school student said with a shrug.

“Did you see that? That’s a real singer!”

In the end, noona also recognized this true value, not those corrupt male idols who danced. The high school student was proud that they shared the same feeling for the first time in a long time.

Kim Rabin’s solo fan shouted.

“Isn’t that Moondae…?!”

“…?!”

The high school student doubted his ears for a moment.

Park Moondae… He was one of noona’s favorite male idols!

“Stop talking bullshit, it wasn’t that kind of voice~ Is that how he sings?”

“Just listening to him, he’s definitely Moondae, idiot!”

“Ah, assh*le, why are you doing this to me?”

The siblings started pointing fingers at each other and shouting.

And this conversation was happening on the Internet as well.

* * *

“Have a safe trip, Mr. Moondae~”

“Thank you.”

On my way back from this week’s consultation.

Seon Ahyeon was filming a cosmetic commercial so he left to the filming set after saying goodbye via text message.

[Moondae, I was sad that I couldn’t monitor your appearance in <The Singer I Made> because of yesterday’s schedule, but I’m even more sad that I won’t be able to see you until later because I have a tight schedule today. I’ll make time to watch it somehow… (more)]

‘…It’s a long message again.’

It was almost like a letter.

I replied moderately with, ‘It’s really okay, so take a break when you have to’.

‘Come to think of it, is it a good time to check?’

My stage… I mean, the stage of ‘Groom in May’ that I made.

As soon as the main broadcast ended last night, the clip would have been uploaded to the Internet, so there should be enough reactions now.

‘Let’s look at it now.’

I logged on to WeTube.

[Looking for a bride] | ‘Groom in May’. <One Day in May> | <The Singer I Made> Preliminary Stage | 202X0611]

Fortunately, the views on both stages were quite good.

‘I thought the first stage would have fewer views.’

Because it was a song that didn’t have particular high notes.

However, it seemed there were a lot of people who were more interested in the shape of the character.

– Bouquet head is crazy, I f*cking love itㅠㅠ

– Honestly, the flower head is a bit scary, but the moment he sang, it was all blown away and combined into a handsome man

– Thank you for the marriage proposal. Where is our wedding hall?

– Look at how immersed he is with the character. Is the flower supposed to be cute and handsome?ㅋㅋㅠㅠㅠ

– A white suit and a veil? A standing mic with flowers? It is an unacceptable combination unless he is handsome, so he must be handsome

“Oh…”

Maybe because it was a song that matched the character set, a lot of people were more immersed than I thought.

‘As long as you have fun.’

I shrugged and checked the next video. The comments on the video of ‘Winter Night’ I sang at the finals were like this.

– Really he’s f*cking amazing, I feel good

– I’ve been playing it all day, please release the songㅠㅠ

– See you, next week’s winner~

– I'm curious~ who could he be^^ Just looking at his movements makes my heart flutter, so handsome… I'm really looking forward to it…

– His head is weird, but his singing is one of the best in the world.

– Even if the bride dies early, he is truly a master singer and groom who will go to the underworld to find her.

…I guess it suited the tastes of the elderly.

'Is it because I arranged it in an old-fashioned way?'

Anyway, overall, the comments were overflowing with favorable reviews and expectations.

I straightened my back.

'Was my strategy good?'

I had considered that the first and second stages would be aired on the same episode.

'If all of them come out in one episode anyway, both the stages will be the first impression. Then this build-up composition is correct.'

Even if the first stage was weak, they would see the following stage at once.

So, for the first stage, even if it was a bit weak, I did it in a way that saved the atmosphere of character and left out the strong arrangement.

'I'm glad it worked out well.'

I smirked.

However, when the reactions to the stage were sorted in the latest order, some conflicts were revealed.

To sum it up, it was like this.

– I think it's Park Moondae…

– Mr. Park is a good singer, but I don't think this is him. Their voices are different~

– Fools, when idols come out in places like this, they purposely made funny characters to hide their identity. Seeing he openly made his character cool, he's not an idol ㅇㅋ

└If you think about it backward, maybe he is an idol

└There are a lot of idols who are good at singing… Hmm, Park Moondae that I saw in Idol Inc wasn't this good.

└Watch the song he performed on an American program. He's really good. I think it's Park Moondae (link)

└He's good, but his voice is different. He's not Groom.

Like this, those who expressed that it might be Park Moondae were pushed into the minority.

It was fortunate that it wasn't an atmosphere that ridiculed 'Park Moondae' because it was well-known that he was good at singing.

"Hmm."

I didn't plan for this to happen.

In fact, I didn't know that the speculation 'Park Moondae was Groom in May' would cease like this.

Of course, I used a different voice on purpose because I thought it would be better to maintain the fun and tension of the speculation.

I tried to sing a little differently than when I usually sang in the group.

'...Still, I tried to keep them confused.'

People who had heard Park Moondae sing a lot thought it was noticeable.

However, perhaps because the character was so strong, public opinion was more stubborn than I expected.

'I should've just gone with the bipedal cat concept.'

I regretted it a little, thinking of the mysterious cat that stayed on my candidate list until the end, but I soon cleared it up.

'I like this one better.'

In fact, I was a bit conscious of the advice I had received during counseling.

– Mr. Moondae, instead of objectively choosing the best one, why don't you practice choosing the one you like? Once or twice a week.

– Your homework assignment this time is to make a list of 'what you like'.

Well, the expert said so, I did it on a big scale at once

'It's not a problem that affects the status abnormality, so it should be fine.'

It was easier to see human limbs mimicking my movements rather than cat feet.

‘People seem to like it, too.’

I shrugged my shoulders, got off in front of the dorm I arrived at, and moved my feet.

‘The character profile will be released next week.’

I went through the profile I had made in advance and checked if there was anything I wanted to change.

At the same time, I opened the door of the dorm I arrived at and entered inside. The person who happened to be sitting in the living room pretended to notice.

It was Ryu Chungwoo.

“You’re here?”

“Yes, hyung.”

“I bought ice cream there. Eat.”

Ryu Chungwoo said as he lightly pointed to the refrigerator, then he got up from the sofa where he was sitting and turned around.

I knew it at that moment.

‘Are you avoiding the place where I sit?’

He got up because he was afraid that I would be uncomfortable if he stayed in the living room. So that I could relax in the living room.

‘…Huh.’

Somehow strength disappeared from my shoulders. The remaining uneasiness subsided like a knot being untied.

I opened the refrigerator and called out to Ryu Chungwoo.

“You should have some ice cream, too. What flavor do you want?”

“…Ah, should I?”

“Yes.”

Sitting down on the sofa again, Ryu Chungwoo grinned.

“Then I’ll have the orange flavor.”

Then someone came running excitedly from behind.

“I want ice cream, too!”

‘Where did he come from?’

Instinctively, I threw an ice cream to Cha Eugene, whose grammar now sounded natural, then I went to the sofa and sat down.

And we watched the rerun of <The Singer I Made> together.

“You have flowers for a head! That’s cool!”

“Thank you.”

“You’re good at singing, Moondae.”

“It’s not a big deal.”

This wasn’t so bad.

When my stage was over, Ryu Chungwoo asked.

“You just came back from filming for the next episode, right?”

“Yes.”

“How was it?”

“…It was fun.”

I smirked.

I was really looking forward to next week’s episode.

- 1. it is a word used to mock someone who is deeply stuck in a character they created. Probably similar to chuunibyou.

CHAPTER 149

The week before the next episode of the semi-final and final of <The Singer I Made> would be aired.

Thanks to the impressive hologram character that hadn't appeared for a while, it was lightly talked about on the Internet.

– It's fun to see something new for the first time in a while. I've seen them running out of all kinds of sportsman usable materials

– The profile and concept art is coming out this week, right? I'm looking forward to it. It's been so long since my heart raced when watching TV. I'm flustered…

– I was surprised that his voice was so good, but he completely ripped apart the next stage. The bouquet head made my heart pound

– From the first stage that seems to symbolize a groom on a spring day to the next stage where the beauty of tragedy is alive. Everything was good. (link)

– He's really good at singing, it's his definite victory ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

Of course, because he had high-level quality and didn't lack anything, he naturally got popular.

And, of course most of Park Moondae's fans had guessed.

That the Groom in May would be Park Moondae.

– Honestly, it's obvious

– It’s so obvious. If you can’t tell, you don’t have eardrums

– No, his skills got better. His voice seemed to have improved a lot since the American program, but how is this possible

└The consensus is that it’s because he’s a genius

– Honestly, no matter how you see it, the character… I had guessed the moment I saw him but hearing his voice, it was just as I expected ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– ㅇㄱㄹㅇ Seriously, the making of Magical Boy didn’t go anywhere ㅋㅋㅋ

But it didn’t come out to the surface.

Thanks to having gone through so many suppressions, they had established a stance of not actively arguing when their opinions differed from the public.

It would be over once his identity was revealed anyway, so the fans refrained from speaking while looking forward to the reaction after that. It was to avoid the crazy people who sometimes tried to catch and ridicule them.

And at the long-awaited airing day for the second half of <The Singer I Made>.

These people who were looking forward to ‘Groom in May’ waited for the main broadcast of the entertainment program for a long time.

Among them were this brother and sister.

“Look. It’s Park Moondae.”

“Yeah, you’re delusional~”

It was a college student, who was a fan of Kim Raebin, and her younger brother.

The younger brother was prepared for the older sister's curses to come flying as soon as he babbled, but it didn't happen.

"…Huft."

The college student put up with it and just laughed it off.

It was the confidence of those who knew the outcome.

"What's with you?"

"Fine. Just watch the broadcast."

The pissed-off high school student huffed and turned to the TV.

Still, as soon as the broadcast started, the siblings forgot the fight.

Because 'Groom in May' came out on the first match of the semifinals between the remaining three cast members and one winner of the last episode.

[The audience is buzzing]

[Hey~ I'm looking forward to it]

[I don't know what kind of performance he'll show us!]

It was a reaction full of high anticipation from the audience and judges who had grasped the situation through the last two stages.

With captions and comments intersecting, the 'Groom in May' finally appeared on the stage.

“Heol.”

“He’s here.”

The flying butterflies and the more sophisticated patterns on the veil and gloves were captured in the eyes of the college student.

It seemed they slightly reinforced the hologram.

‘I guess they poured some money because of the reaction?’

The main vocalist of the first-tier idol group came out, so the college student snorted, saying that it was only natural.

“Hey, here it is! Here it is!”

“Be quiet!”

On the dark stage, only the hologram shone alone.

And the accompaniment played out.

The sweet and clear sounds of violins and oboes filled the space.

The stage was filled with bright, glaring lights. With the flowers swaying, the groom raised his right hand and gently placed it on the microphone.

– My world is

A place free of sorrow

Only joy

I share it with you

“Huh? That…”

“Shh!”

After the sweet line, a lower and more desperate line followed.

– In my world

There’s no darkness

Bright starlight

Shine on you

“Wow…”

This time, the siblings opened their mouths and looked at the screen, forgetting to prevent each other from getting in the way.

‘Groom in May’ was singing a duet song that both a man and a woman sing together.

It was a very romantic song, famous for its fairy tale lyrics and lyrical melodies.

And another characteristic of this song was that it was often used as a wedding song.

– Sometimes sad days

Will come to find us

Please stay in this world

– My love

Your world

in a warm hug

to keep the promise

In the original song, the lyric was composed and solidified by two people exchanging melodies with each other.

However, sung alone by 'Groom in May', the wedding song had changed its nuance and completely turned into a song of perfect courtship.

Unlike the graceful marriage proposal song in the preliminaries stage, the composition that crossed the heights of men and women, like the tail feathers of courting peacocks, captivated the ears.

'It really sounds nice.'

'It's a country-style song, but why is it good?'

The brother and sister were completely immersed in the song and listened to the rest of the song in silence.

The subtitles were frantic too.

[The love conveyed by Groom in May]

[Falling in love with his sweet voice]

The faces of the judges with closed eyes and the judges with their eyes wide open looking at the stage crossed each other.

"He's going to the final round, right?"

"Definitely."

Watching the ‘Groom in May’ bow down again after finishing the song and then slowly disappear, the siblings expressed the same opinion for the first time in a long time.

And, just as they predicted, ‘The Groom in May’ advanced to the final.

[The 2nd finalist is… ‘Groom in May’]

“Yeeeess!”

“Hey, if he doesn’t make it to the final, the result must be manipulated.”

As if watching a sports game, the siblings swung the remote control at the TV excitedly.

And the profiles of the semi-finalists were introduced at length.

This content was to fill the time, but there were cases where a well-made character profile caught people’s interests.

The Groom in May was like that.

– Crazy… He can only sing love songs until he meets his bride;; What’s with the concept

– So Winter Night, which he sang in the finals, was the time when he met the bride and lost her, then he was finally able to sing a breakup song?

└Heol

└You’re such an interpreter

– The bouquet head only has flowers that bloom in May… The Groom in May… If he get married in another month, the flowers change

.

└Please brainwash him until he becomes the Groom in June. It's June right now

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– When he gets married, the head of the flower changes to the bride's ideal type. This setup is too much but it's great

As soon as the profile appeared, the college student browsed through SNS and felt proud.

'Park Moondae is really good at things like this!'

And she was sure once again. This must be Park Moondae!

"What would you do if he is really Park Moondae?"

"I think you'll get humiliated if you keep being like this."

"Hey, do you want to bet 100,000 won?"

"Wow, thank you for the allowance."

Right before the final stage, the siblings even decided to make a high-stakes bet.

The two people that couldn't turn back anymore stared at the TV with serious faces.

"Even if he fails here, I'll win, right?"

"Saying that from my point of view, yes."

The two roughly skipped the first stage of the final. An old-fashioned chicken with a tinfoil ribbon sang a fun samba, but it wasn't particularly exciting.

And finally… His turn had come.

The Groom in May reappeared on stage.

[Wooow!]

A red butterfly flew away, and a bouquet of flowers was shining through the white veil.

‘Groom in May’ held his standing microphone with both of his hands covered in white gloves.

And the stage went dark.

Clang.

Several lights from all directions shot down toward the hologram.

It was dark red.

“…!”

The lights shook distortedly.

Then, an ominous sound began to ring out.

Shhhh-shhhh-

The sound of sogeum[1]The sogeum is a small bamboo transverse flute used in traditional Korean music. Sumber: Wiki. leaking like the wind was mixed with the frantic sound of a flute going back and forth between notes, creating a strange atmosphere.

A slow drum beat rang out.

Boom… Boom… Boom…

It was chilly.

In that eerie atmosphere, the Groom in May began to sing.

The white suit was stained with mottled red light.

– On the eve of April

I can't even see the moon

You don't come

Love is rotting away

A slightly hoarse, scraping sound echoed across the stage.

Perhaps because of the shaking of the lights, the flowers of 'The Groom in May' seemed to be swaying.

As if he would soon wither.

– The longing is this long

I don't deserve to live

I suddenly open the window

Only traces remain on the road

The song played out over the restless monotony without taking a chance to breathe. The note rose up steeply, as if it was about to jump.

Then, it dropped.

– *Still, I'll wait*

In line with the low note, the accompaniment exploded.

"…!!"

Amid the rushing sound of Korean traditional music instruments, 'The Groom in May' bowed his head, burying the flowers in the stand microphone.

– *My heart is all rotten*

Until your bony heart melts

buried under the ground

Until all the memories fade

I'll still wait

The melancholy melody began with a very low tone and rose frantically.

In the repeated lyrics, the countless metaphors all ended with one word.

'Waiting.'

The screen didn't even show the audience's reaction. Only the 'Groom in May' was illuminated on the red-colored stage.

There seemed to be an invisible gaze from the veil and beyond the bouquet.

Even beyond the screen, they could feel the desperate feeling as if being overwhelmed.

And at least, it arrived.

A high-pitched voice that sounded like a cry raised the final chorus lyrics.

– *On the day you finally came*

Until the day of your beauty

The last note followed as if he didn't breathe.

Chasing after it, the gloomy accompaniment ran frantically… Then, it stopped.

– *Waiting*

"…"

A faint sound of sogeum finished the song.

In the place where fear and madness left, a painful and sad aftertaste remained.

With the bouquet on the standing microphone, the frozen 'Groom in May' didn't move.

And the moment the accompaniment was completely cut off.

He disappeared from the stage as if blown away.

[Oooooh!]

[Wow…!]

Only then did the audience seats were filled with applause and admiration.

The camera that caught the unusual appearance of the judges and the audience covering their mouths finally appeared.

[The overwhelmed audience]

[They can't take their hands off their mouths]

And the siblings who were frozen in front of the TV also came to their senses.

"…It's really crazy."

"I'm getting goosebumps."

"It's Moondae's win."

"You're crossing the line again."

The stage of 'The Groom in May', who seemed to have passed away while waiting for a bride who didn't return, left a tremendous impression.

Because he dragged out a stage that could be seen as excessive, with a terrifyingly perfect song.

'I'll definitely watch the show next week, too.'

Convinced of the victory of 'Groom in May', the high school student made a decision in his heart.

He had to watch.

He even thought about buying and listening to his album once his identity was revealed.

‘Looking at each stage, he’s definitely a band vocalist. I think he’writes minor songs.’

So when the ‘Groom in May’ revealed his identity shortly after, he was completely frozen in shock.

[‘Groom in May’, the identity of the person who created this hologram character… Revealed now!]

Just before announcing the winners, the identities of the cast members were revealed in advance to make up the picture of them waiting for the announcement with their holograms on stage.

The hologram of ‘Groom in May’, whose motion link was released, stood calmly on the stage. He looked somewhat quiet for someone who had sung such a miserable song just now.

He could hear the MC’s loud voice.

[Come on in!]

At that moment, the bottom of the stage opened and the person began to appear.

And people started making strange exclamations.

“…!?”

Because what came up was… the ‘Groom in May’.

“What?”

The actual ‘Groom in May’, who had come up all the way, tilted the bouquet.

It looked just like the hologram, so he got goosebumps.

“Gasp.”

Until now, animals and food had been playfully reproduced using doll clothes, but it had never looked so similar like this.

Because he made a character out of things that were usually not used!

‘What is this bastard doing?’

Among the buzzing audience and the judges, only the MC shouted cheerfully.

[This person is…!]

The newly came-up ‘Groom in May’ ripped off the bouquet from his head with his right hand.

“…!”

A thick mesh mask covered with flowers flowed down to his neck, revealing a sweaty face and hair.

[The popular idol, Testar’s Park Moondae!]

[!!!!]

The screaming audience and the judges who deliberately pretended to be more surprised were captured and replayed continuously on the screen.

And the high school student was stunned, too.

“…”

“Hey, hey.”

Tuk-tuk, the college student tapped her brother with her foot.

“Give me 100,000 won.”

By the way, a similar situation was happening on the Internet in real-time.

- 1. The sogeum is a small bamboo transverse flute used in traditional Korean music. Sumber: Wiki.

CHAPTER 150

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[The identity of Groom in May in <My Singer> just came out]

: Testar Park Moondae

Appearing in the same outfit as the hologram

(screenshot)

==========

– Crazy

– I was watching and doubted my eyes

– Oh my God ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

– It's really Park Moondae, you bastards ㅠㅠ

'As expected, it's coming up in real time.'

I briefly checked out the growing comments, but I eventually gave up my escape and looked back to the TV.

The identity of <Groom in May> was being aired on TV in the dorm's living room in front of me.

[Testar's Park Moondae??]

[A surprise appearance of the national stock idol…]

[The audience and the judge are shocked]

I turned on my smartphone because it was hard to see those captions and editing with my eyes open.

If I was alone, I would take a look, but the problem was… I was watching with the group.

“I-It’s fine, Moondae, it’s cool…!”

“Impressive directing!”

“Hey, Moondae~ You were determined. You even prepared an outfit. Nice~”

Keun Sejin poked me in the shoulder. Meanwhile, captions appeared again under Park Moondae’s words on TV.

[Please introduce yourself!]

[Yes, hello. I’m Park Moondae, the main vocalist of the group Testar.]

[A rosy smile in May… Melting woman’s heart]

“Rosy…!”

“Wow, the captions are really……”

The guys around me couldn’t stand it anymore and began to hold back their laughter with their heads down.

When Testar’s exaggeratedly edited activities were briefly shown on the screen, I didn’t even think about raising my head because I was a bit embarrassed.

‘Is there any meaning in monitoring this?’

I'd guessed it since the moment everyone said they would watch it together, even though I wanted to go in and watch it by myself.

Fortunately, the broadcast soon moved on to the announcement of the winner.

[<The Singer I Made>, the best singer character…]

[It's Park Moondae's 'Groom in May'!]

Confetti splashed on the screen.

"WOOOOW!"

"He sang like that so, of course, he's the winner!"

Bae Sejin shouted excitedly.

"…?"

What is he doing?

When Bae Sejin met my eyes, he cleared his throat and turned his head away.

It reminded me of last week when he said 'I enjoyed your Winter Night performance' with a stiff face.

'I guess that kind of dramatic singing style is your taste.'

I thought I was watching some kind of race.

Just in time, the MC was making a fuss on the screen.

[Ah~ Moondae-ssi! Please tell us how you feel!]

[Hmm… While moving ‘Groom in May’, I had so much fun. That alone was a meaningful experience… I am so happy that there are people who like it… Thank you very much.]

It was true.

I started this by clearing my head, but the results were better than I thought… It was amazing.

‘I was lucky.’

I couldn’t expect such luck all the time, but it was still a fresh experience.

“Moondae hyung, you have a very similar physique to the hologram of <Groom in May>, did you plan this public performance from the beginning?”

“Wasn’t it uncomfortable to have flowers on your face?”

…I managed to answer meekly.

“…Yeah, I planned it, and of course it was uncomfortable.”

“I knew it!”

“It’s not good to be uncomfortable!”

It was a little burdensome, but I had to accept this much. They had put up with my bad condition for the past month without me knowing.

“Seeing this, I want to hurry up and promote a new album~”

“R-Right.”

With the chatter of the guys who were motivated because of the monitoring, my footage on the screen was almost over.

[Unfortunately… Our ‘Chicken with Ribbon’ is only a runner-up!]

‘It’s the guy from the Gold 1’s group.’

While the runner-up, the chicken, was being interviewed, Ryu Chungwoo asked.

“Then are you going to come out in the next episode, Moondae?”

“Yes. I will come out starting from the semi-final the week after that.”

“Good. Congratulations. Hmm… Then, wait a minute.”

Ryu Chungwoo got up from his seat with a smile. Then the youngest two sprang to their feet.

“…?”

It looked unnatural to anyone watching.

‘…Oh, no way.’

The three disappeared into the kitchen and reappeared in an instant.

Cha Eugene had a cake in his hand.

[<Cong> Testar’s 1st anniversary <rats>]

[Great job! Awesome!]

“…!”

As expected.

…In fact, today was June 18th. It was the first anniversary of Testar’s debut.

”Although there’s still less than an hour left.’

It was already 11:20 p.m.

I forgot about the anniversary content momentarily because it was already filmed and uploaded at midnight due to editing time.

“We have a video that will be released at midnight, but… I thought it would be nice if we could do it together.”

Ryu Chungwoo laughed and shook the two maknae’s heads.

“I prepared it with these guys.”

“I like cake!”

“The phrases written at the top were decided after we discussed them together.”

The phrases really did look like the kind of phrases that would come out from those three.

But it wasn’t the phrases that mattered.

‘…Did you wait until my monitoring was over?’

It was a little… admirable.

When I started getting strange feelings, Keun Sejin intervened.

“Wait, wait! Let’s take a picture first~ Moondae!”

“…”

Why are you holding out your phone as if it is natural?

“Hey, it’s because Moondae is good at taking pictures~ Huh? No way, are you not confident in taking selfies? Are you?”

“Give it to me.”

“Oh~”

I’d let this slide.

I snatched the phone out of Keun Sejin’s hand and turned the camera into selfie mode.

Stretching my hand all the way, I adjusted it so that all seven of us and the cake could fit on the screen.

“I’m taking the pictures.”

“Yes~”

Click, click, click. Naturally, I took several pictures every few seconds.

And after a while.

“Then, let’s eat the cake!”

“…Is it okay to eat this? The coloring on the top…”

“It’s delicious!”

“Cha Eugene! You should let the hyungs eat first!”

“…”

As if he had given up, Bae Sejin threw a piece of the cake into his mouth.

I shrugged.

'…It tastes good.'

For a design cake, it was really good.

30 minutes before June 18th ended. The first anniversary passed by with us chewing on the cake.

"We've worked hard for a year. Let's continue to do our best."

"Oh, of course~ Let's do our best until we get the Grand Prize~"

"We're not doing an activity, so eat a lot."

"Y-Yes…!"

This simplicity was not bad.

* * *

When Park Moondae and the members were peacefully eating the cake together.

Park Moondae's fans were roaring with victory.

– Ah, Groom in May is Park Moondae!! (clatter)

– I feel like I just get hit by a waterfall of cider under the shower. Thank you, my idol.

– I thought I was going to die from frustration. Finally, I'm introducing my husband. My groom is Park Moondae

└Ah, get in line, it's still long before your turn

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ

As much as the period of silence and self-restraint were frustrating, posts poured into social media and communities like crazy.

[Comparison of ‘Groom in May’ and Park Moondae]

[The identity of the Groom in May that everyone in the know knew.jpg]

[My Singer’s final performance that gives goosebumps]

The fans, who rushed in as if settling old grudges in less than an hour, began to suffer from Park Moondae’s new content.

– Park Moondae, you madman, how could you come up with that idea… You don’t know how to hit the brakes, my punk!! That’s why I love you!!

– He wrote in the Groom’s profile that his flower head turns into his bride’s ideal type when he meets his bride, what are you going to do with this information if one really shows up?

└Isn’t this a marriage proposal? I have to register the marriage

-I don’t know which one is the flower and which one is the face┬┬Isn’t Park Moondae and Bouquet synonymous?

– Moon Puppy in May? This is it (country puppy with flowers)

– It’s really satisfying… If you don’t feel satisfied after listening to Park Moondae’s song, you’re not Korean

And although not as wild as the fans, even the general fans of <The Singer I Made> were deeply impressed with ‘Groom in May’.

This was because his performances from the preliminaries to the finals were all great, and even the impact and structure of the identity disclosure were perfect.

– It’s been a while since a cast member took this seriously as a singer. I’ve seen too many punks doing stuff like being the baseball mascots

– For a guy who sings like that to be an idol, it’s such a waste. He should just sing dance songs

└Aigoo, old man. Everyone starts as an idol these days. When the time comes, they’ll go solo ㅇ ㅇ

– He didn’t have an original song for the final stage. He was scared of making one

– Except for the weak preliminary round, there’s no doubt that he’s the perfect winner

└Since the preliminaries were used to build characters, it’s a great strategic choice. I wonder who directed it? If he did it himself ㄹ ㅇ he’s like a break-out idol

└First of all, that vocal cord is his, that alone is admirable enough ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

└Indeed ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ ㅋ

Just like the favorable viewers, even though they might have different tastes in the character, general viewers also admitted one thing,

‘He’s really good at singing.’

The overwhelming victory in the prime-time public TV entertainment show, which had a viewership rating of around 10%, also had a light impact on public perception.

It appeared from some comments in the video revealing the identity of the ‘Groom in May’ that was uploaded on WeTube.

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[Romantic and thrilling performance, <The Groom in May>! The surprising identity is? | <The Singer I Made> | 202X0618]

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– The final stage really gave me goosebumps! I got a breakout. You're the best!

– He is truly the country's happiness… What a great singer with an amazing voice! how can you sing so well.^^

– Park Moondae! I'll wait for your next performance~ㅠㅠ

– His face is also very bright and handsome. He must have a pretty voice because he has such a pretty face.

Middle-aged people recognized Park Moondae.

Because <Idol Inc.> was so popular, they had seen Park Moondae's face, but there weren't many people who had listened to his singing with such intensity.

In addition, there were also the reactions of the people who really liked the character of 'Groom in May' itself.

– Proposal–Breakup–Courship–Obsession. The stages so far are epic and perfect

– Since last week, all kinds of delusions won't leave my head. It feels like I've made five billion movies with Groom in May as the main character

– You don't come and love rots away (Groom in May fanart)

– It’s been a long time since we’ve had a non-human character… I didn’t know I have a concept-obsessed comrade among idols

└ㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋA sudden rise in intimacy!

└The fact that he did the same thing as the hologramㅋㅋㅋ I am convinced it’s true

– I keep thinking about how he took off his bouquet head. I’m going crazy

└You too? Sameㅋㅋㅋㅋㅋ To be honest, I really liked Groom in May. I thought my fantasy would be blown away if a human head come out, but it surprisingly turned out good

└As expected, the face is the answer

– I hope Moondae-ssi can share more TMI about Groom in May

Even if the character was created by Park Moondae and his voice and motion were taken from Park Moondae, the character and Park Moondae couldn’t be completely the same.

Nevertheless, the enthusiasm spread quickly. Because they had so much in common.

– I’m already looking forward to the performance next weekㅠㅠ

At the time when his identity was just revealed as he performed a fantastic stage on a program watched by many people.

When all kinds of praise and attention were directed to Park Moondae.

Of course, it didn’t end there.

[Park Moondae can go solo ㅎㅎ]

It was a planned aggro.

For your information, it would be smashed soon.

PDF by: traitorARZEN